CHAP.

¶ *How the three Earls of Westmerland, Somerset, and Dorsett came to aide Queene Katherine, being in Wales: and what passed betwixt them.*

The Duke of Suffolke, seeing [illegible]

My Loue is true, my spousall Promise iust,
Not staind with any crime of lawles lust:
Then princely EDWARD, cease thy cruell hate,
For falshood wronges my noble fame and state.

Deare Spouse, despise not thus thy constant Queene,
Whose loyaltie doth glister bright and greene:
If euer you tooke pleasure in my youth,
Let sound beliefe be witnesse of my trueth.

No sooner had the Queene finished these bloody lines, but there came into the Prison to comfort her, three graue Counsellers of King Edwards Court, whom she did most louingly entertaine: and after some conference passed betwixt them, she most kindly kissed her Husbands liuely Picture, which as then hanged about her necke by a faire chaine or rundle of Gold, powring out many bitter teares, to the wonderfull griefe and admiration of all that beheld her: the which being done, she humbly desired pardon of the Lordes, to vse some wordes in the defence of her chastetie, so that she might not abuse their patience: and as she hauing an innocent and guiltlesse hart, so she might freely discharge her conscience, and cleare her selfe from all those vniust accusations layde against her.

This her vertuous request so highly pleased the three Lords, that they presently consented to giue her free authoritie openly to honest her honorable and auncient credite. The harmelesse Queene in a most seuerre and bolde countenaunce, with sundry faire amiable syrtes in her cheekes, her browes beset like the maiestie of Diana, her white iuorie crembling hands like the driuen snow, her body euen framed and fashioned of the virgin Mare, spake as followeth.

If vnmeasurable griefe of hart (Right honorable Lords) or the noble blood of my predecessors, may be sufficient to draw melting pittie from your mindes, I do not doubt but your

wise-

wiledomes will accompt the accusation of the wicked Barron to be vniust, which he hath oppressed me withall, who daylp seekes by flattery, to cut the sweete verdure, and tender greenesse of my young peeres: therefore (most noble Lords) for pitties sake, arme me from his hurtes, defende and guard me from his heavfull conspiracies, succour and support me with honorable iustice: for he both assault me with miserie, he both vsurpe tirannicall villanie against me, he seeketh the ouerthrow of the Seignorie of our Kingdome, he seeketh a deuision betwixt my Lord and me, and both prepare an entraunce for himselfe: But I wish a separation of bodie, with a thousand tormentes of body, if euer I ouerturned my spousall chastetie, the which I haue alwayes carefully kept, and without violation preserued it to my deare Lordes husband. If then these my wordes may mollifie your harres, to plead in my behalfe to King Edward, that he may with discretion consider my innocencie, I must repute you merrifull men, and sound searchers of trueth: wherefore, haue mercie vpon me I say, haue mercie vpon a wronged Queene, trayterously abused. And in speaking this, teares so abundantly flowed from the cundets of her eyes, that she was forced to be silent.

These wordes of Queene Katherine, so grieued their harres, that they were all perswaded of her vertuous life, and that her honorable fame was indeed through the vengance of the aspiring Barron, who by sorcerie had peruerted King Edwards noble minde: therefore to comfort the gracious Queene, the worthy Earle of Sommerset, in the name of all the rest, spake as followeth.

Your modestie (most noble Queene, quoth he) shall inforce vs to prostrate our selues before his Maiestie, that he may fauourably infranchize your liberties, and take you againe to his good grace and well liking, whose head no doubt) is fraught full with many fantasies against you: but yet since humilitie may mollifie and aduaunce your cause with open trueth, re-

solue this a comfort to your Princely minde, that your enemie which hath so mightely abused your reputation, can neuer escape due punishment: and the Gods (I know) will neuer forgiue so vile a wittenesse: As for example. Camera the Queene of Egypt, hauing a hundred thousand sorrowes lodged in her chast minde, being by rigorous Iustice condemned to be torne a sunder by wilde Horses, and so made a dolorous example vnto the worlde: But now marke the iudgements of God vpon the vile betrayers of this vertuous Queene: for euen in the howre of her death, an hoast or armie of angry Aspes with the sharpe stinges in their tayles, in open view destroyed and subuerted her enemies: an exployte of worthy warning against all false periured accusers, and sodayne seueritie against such as exercise by tyrannicall fury, to flatter Princes eares.

Let not me forget the noble Egyptian Panteron, which made a law, that whosoeuer vowed a false oath, should be led and slaine as a Calfe in the shambles, his skinne flead off, his head set vp as a signe of a murtherer, a rauisher of holy chastitie, and his corpes thrawne to the Kinges Hounds to be deuowred.

Infinite examples might be remembred, amongst the radiant flourishing Ladyes that haue bin inspired with excellent guiftes of vertue. I could discourse manifolde warninges: but chiefly I will preferre before your eyes the misery, teares, and immeasurable sorrowes of Lady *Elena*, a Paragon and mirrour of true continencie, whose portion was veration and vnrestfulnesse, cruelly bereft from chast integrity & renowned honour: but such was the proofe of her rare and exquesite vertue, by the immortall Gods, that greedy Beares (as Lieftenants of Iustice) deuowred her enemies.

Thus, if right were not maintained by immortal meanes, violence, dissimulation, and deceitfull flatteryes, would flourish amongst mortall men, to the subuersion of Kingdomes, inquietations of Kinges soules, tirrable eryes in iudgement seates,

states, destruction of Cities, and ouerturning of common wealthes: wherefore (most honorable Princesse) if the righteous honesty of your cause be buylded vpon a sure rocke, mercie shalbe gayned, malice vanquished by modesty, and thraldome depriued by libertie: Thus resting our selues with this resolution, till King Edwards minde and pleasure be further knowne herein.

After this kind promise pronounced by the good Earle of Sommerset, the Queene pulled from her golden lockes certaine sumptuous Pearles, and rich Jewels, hanging in most beautifull brightnes, and gaue them to the Earle of Sommerset, saying. I do not (right honorable Lord) impart these guyftes as a Bribe couertly to ballance my cause, but as a proofe of my good will, and a requitall of your paynes, in visiting me thus in my miseries: which if they be graciously accepted, I shall thinke my selfe most highly honored.

No sooner were these speaches finished, and thanks giuen for the Queenes gentle Rewardes, but the Nobles departed the Prison, and conueyed them selues into a secret Chamber, where euery one deliuered his opinion, measuring out a direct meanes for her enlargment: all which proceeded of true loue, and firme beliefe of her chastetie. But after many consultations, with a general consent they concluded, to write vnto the King, not onely to alter his discontented minde, but to discouer the falsehood and flatterie of the wicked Barron.

The Counsels Supplication to King Edward.

IF vnfaigned affections which loyall Subiectes beare to the Common-wealth of England, or the true chastetie of your Queene vniustly wronged by flatterie, may moone you (most excellent Prince) to remember the holy vow of Wedlocke, where your inseparable loues were ioyned together, and of two persons made but one body; we assure our selues then that your vertue and wisedome, will defende the honorable cause of your nupriall Spouse, and gather

theſe vnioynted members into right courſe againe: For why ſhould your Grace be diſmembred, hauing all the parts of naturall proportion redefied in your perſon? Why ſhould you make your ſelfe a poynting ſtocke of infamie to forraigne enemies, and a domeſticall contempt to your owne Subiects? Let naturall regard perſwade you, to driue out theſe pernitious poyſons, which flattering Subiects haue lodged in your breaſt, inchaunting you with vncurable Ieloſie; which except you ſpeedely reforme, your Royall eſtate may fall into preſent ruine. Theſe dangers conſidered, lyeth you vppon ſpeedely to frequent the company of your chaſt Queene, whoſe honorable vndefiled foote-ſteppes we haue made good tryall of, to the hope of your fauour, her ſpeedie deliuerie, and a iuſt diſcharge of our duties.

This Supplication receiued by the King; could nothing at all preuaile to enlarge her ſeruitude: for a little before, the wicked Barron had preſented to King Edward a Goldſmithes Daughter of London named Caſtope; a Damſell of a lewde behauiour, yet beautifull and paſſing amorous, who with her flattering ſmiles ſo intangled his eyes, and bewitched his fancie in ſuch ſort, that he delighted onely in her companie, wholly changing his auncient loue from his loyall Queene, thinking all times too long, till the tender threed of her life were cut off, which Vertue before time, had ſo honorably ſpunne.

King Edwardes minde being thus obſcured with thicke fogges of flatterie, and ouerwhelmed into a pernitious gulfe of darknelle, his diſeaſe of Ieloſie prooued more incurable: which could neither be holpen through the earneſt loue of his Queene, nor perſwaded through the long ſeruice of learned Counſellers.

Oh, it is a woonder to behalde, how flatterynge deceiuers can temper dellicate drinkes for euery mans appetite, ſtoppe Wiſedomes eares by falſe inchauntmentes, and ſubuert true conſcience by wrongfull inſinuation. The King on the

other

other side, mistrusted not vulgar reportes of populer men, neither the ouerthrow of his kingdome by such a deuision, nor regarded the patient minde of his vertuous Queene, called for certaine of his Priuie Counsell: who being come before him, he gaue them this sharpe edict for the arraignement and sentence against Queene Katherine and the Duke of Suffolke: the tenure of the Kinges words were as followeth.

If wilde Iuie (my noble Lordes) ruinate the Walles of my Houle, reaching within the Windowes of my secret Chamber, were it not necessarie to be plucked vp? If in pleasant Gardens one spreading Weede disorder all the other odoriferous Flowers, is it not requisite to haue it destroyed? And although the rare beautie, and excellent ornamentes of my Queene myght easely inflame simple mindes, to beleeue her faigned holynesse: yet one filthie staine blemisheth all the rest. One wrincle in Apelles tinsell blurred the costly Tables of Bacchus. Doth not one vnsauery oyster pester a whole boule? One loathsome Odoure, ouercome many pretious Oyntmentes? Why are you then my Lordes, so blinded with her deceitfull practises, plagued with her dissembling wordes, and allured with her pestilent poysons? What, do you repute her a demie God? Do you thinke her an Angell of Heauen? Is she onely blest, and my selfe a thousand times accurst? I sweare by the honour of my Scepter, to punish her lewd life in such a maner, that neuer after the blacke cloudes of her shame, may obscure the glory of my Kingdome.

Let it not therefore (most noble Lords) be imagined, that I can be ouercome by any vaine flatterie, or my wits so lightly carried away to be deceiued, without good and due proofe: all which great iniuries to my person, impeachment to my Kingdome, and wrong to my Subiectes, shall be followed with seuere iudgement: therefore, I charge you vpon your duties, as you hope to winne the garlande of my fauour,

to prosecute my determination: which is, the desertfull fall of my vntrusty Queene, and the confusion of her proude minnion the Duke of Suffolke. And in saying this, like one wholly bent to a resolute will, not staying for any answere, he departed from his Lordes, and left them euery one sobainely surprised with griefe, ready to cast them selues headlong into the desartes of dispaire: yet durst they not by any meanes seeke to contradict his wil, but presently to perseueere in this sinister iudgement.

CHAP. 3.

¶ How the Queene and the Duke of Suffolke were arraigned and condemned of adulterie, through false witnesses, and what after happened.

THe very next morning after King Edwarde had giuen charge for their arraignment, were they called foorth before certaine of the honorable Lords of the priuie Counsell, and were tryed vpon the proofe of their accusation: where, the wicked Barron of Buckingham, with two other bace Gentlemen of the Kinges Court, did sweare by the immortall powers of heauen, that the filthy fact of adulterie was committed betweene Queene Katherine and the Duke of Suffolke, against the honour of his Maiesties person.

After which detestable oath falsely protested, the good Earle of Sommerset stood vp in open audience, and with a dischearefull countenance, spake as followeth.

Oh you wretched betrayers of Innocent blood (quoth he) although they taste the bitter torinentes in this world, yet I feare not but they will shortly wander to that celestiall paradice, from whence will deseende fierie vengance vpon your heades. Oh you Diuels and Feends of impietie, woe worth

the

the time that euer you attempted so vile a periurie: for you haue taken a vertuous Queene from vs, a Queene that is the mirrour of true continencie, and onely patterne of constant Women: the like clamor and pittifull lamentation was in the whole Countrey round about. Then in the middest of which sorrowfull moane, the Duke of Suffolke desired the Counsellours and Judges, that he might vtter some speaches in his owne behalfe, and likewise to discharge his conscience of the vile acte his accuser had laide against his life; his speaches were in this maner deliuered.

I am not ignorant (right Honorable assemblie) that this my tender body cloathed with Innocencie, must shortly be discharged from the prison of this worlde, and must take my iourney vp to heauen for true protection, for this life is nothing but a wandering pilgrimage of woe, a mercilesse sea, which often times vomiteth vs into the mouth of prying Pirates, dashing vs vpon many dangerous Shipwrackes: and now since my duetie tyeth me to solemnize an honorable memorie of this afflicted Queene, deliuer out a true discharge of her chastetie, and a preseruation of mine owne honestie: For if euer I presumed such a deede against the maiestie of her worthy person, let this Ghost of mine be deliuered a pasture for infernall Wormes to gnaw vpon: or, if my senses had been so arrogantly disposed, her vertues might haue easely kylde my desires, yea and disclosed the same, to my vtter ruine and confusion. But I see my proffered diligence lyke a trustie Seruant, proffered to her commaundement, hath brought this woe vpon vs both: therefore, if her fame be brought in question, through my misusage, or if the proude Barron enuiously thyrsting for my blood, hath thus wrongfully damnifyed my gratious Princesse, let a double death for her deliuerance, be layde vpon my lyfe: let the ransome of her pietie be layde vpon my body, a graue and pit to finish vp her sorrowes.

Now this I ſpeake as a witneſſe of my laſt Will, hauing enioyed this world twentie ſixe yeeres, ſufficiently pleasing the vanities thereof, and now willing to reſigne this life to a more better hope: and as my young forepaſſed life is free from ſtaine, ſo will I neuer bluſh nor hide my face, as one ſuſpected or blotted with any ſuch crime, of which I am now condemned of.

With theſe words (pronounced by the Duke of Suffolke) was the Earle of Sommerſet depriued of ſpeach, and for the inward griefe which ſwelled in his breaſt, he could not vtter any one word: humane ſorrow powred downe from his eyes abundant ſtreames of teares, manifeſting the goodwill & true affection he bore to truth and iuſtice, his ſoule grieued that true Honour, nurſed vp to ripe age, ſhould in a ſhort moment be deliuered to a cruell and moſt vntimely death. But the Earle of Weſtmerland (which as then preſented the Kinges perſon) hauing ſomewhat a more chearefull hart, ſtood vp in the Iudgement ſeate, and ſpake as followeth.

Moſt gracious Queene (quoth he) and you my honorable Lord the Duke of Suffolke, know, that we in Iuſtice cannot relieue nor helpe your miſeries, for it behooueth vs to fulfill the Kinges commaundement, leaſt we incurre diſpleaſure to our ſelues, hindering vs, and nothing furthering you: but yet this remedie in my conceite ſtandes with iuſtice, that you my Lord of Suffolke may reobtaine your honorable fame, challenging a Combat of the wicked Varlon, and ſo reueale to the worlde your guiltleſſe perfection: for he in preſence of vs all, hath ſpit out moſt vile wordes of deſpight, blemiſhing and ouerthrowing your credite: euen ſo neceſſe before the face of men your true intention, and reſpect to Honor: and to the ſame effect, frame an humble Supplication to his Maieſtie: and in doing ſo, we the Eſtates of this land heere preſent, will eternally chronacle your endeuors to after ages. And in ſpeaking theſe wordes, the whole Counſell roſe vp court for that day, and departed euery one ſeuerally to

their

their lodginges: the Queene and the Duke, were conducted againe to their wanted captiuitie, whereas the Duke of Suffolke greatly comforted with this counsell, thought euery day a yeere, vntill he had giuen the challenge, and that the Barron was prouoked to the Combat: so taking pen and incke, he writ this Knightly petition to his Maiestie.

The Duke of Suffolkes challenge of combat sent to King Edward.

IF your royall person (most mighty Prince) hath bin wronged therow my counterfeite seruice, let me be atached with the scourge of penall iudgement, so that resonable desires be first fauoured: for now Honour burning hot in the closure of my hart, in tryall of my honestie, doth craue this permission at your princely handes, that I may combat with the mischieuous varlet, and false flatterer, the proude Barron of Buckingham, *in disproofe of his cloaked falshood. If my quarrell be vniust, the eternall powers of Heauen will not prosper it: If his ground-worke be well layde, and haue a sure foundation, his intent will be expressed the better. For he that dares commit these wronges openly, will not be abashed to auow them openly. He that launcheth in the puddle of discord, knoweth a cleere passage how to escape: therefore (most noble Prince) let the holy fountaine of mercifull pittie straine out, that it may moone your Grace, to graunt my requestes: I ende.*

By me the sorrowfull and dessolate
Duke of Suffolke.

King Edward receiuing this Supplication, in the manner of a Challenge, thought it a deadly bane prepared against the Barron of Buckinghams life, yet he mdged the deniall of it would greatly preiudice his dignitie: so dissembling an

outwarde respect to honour, though inwardly harbouring fraudulent deceipt, he with a smiling countenence made motion of the Combat to the Barron, as well for expressing of fame, as publishing of fayth. The Barron tendering his owne insufficiencie, being loth to performe the Combat, was astonished at the Kinges request, and stroken into sodaine dumpes, like one that had lost his speach: but yet after a great pause and long stay, he spake in this maner.

I will not refuse (said he) the accomplishment of any thing commaunded by your Maiestie, although your will and pleasure herein seemeth strange and vniust, in that a true Subiect should hazard his life with a false Traytor. The Barron sometimes silent, sometime ouer talkatiue: sometimes lusty, sometimes a coward: so that standing betweene fraude and feare, he faintly represented an offer. Upon this, the King procured a day of Combat, and published throughout the whole land this Proclamation that followeth.

EDWARD, *by long sufferance of diuine fortune, King, Prince, and chiefe Ruler of all the partes of England. &c. Whereas the determined purpose of the noble & hardy Gentleman the* Lord Barron of Buckingham, *is to defende himselfe against the miserable and condemned catiue the* Duke of Suffolke, *a fable for the worlde to gaze vpon, an infamous wretch of notable dishonour, harbouring in his hart long Treasons against our Person, Subiectes, and Dominion: In excuse of his leawde life, for his best aduantage, challengeth open warre against my good Subiect the* Lord Barron: *vnto whose request, in fauour of auncient prowesse, I haue yeelded. But as touching the trespasse of my Queene, no Combat shall preuaile to acquite her disgrace, nor no mortall benefites pardone her offences. Thus fare you well.*

Edward of England.

Thus did the King thinke no paynes ill bestowed that myght bring her in hatred of the common people, and also very much thirsted after her blood, through the perswasion of his vnchast Curtizan faire Cassiope, that euery day sealed his lippes with so many kisses, as her sute could neither be frustrated, nor at no time forgotten.

The Barron, and he likewise, roued in a vnitie of mischiefes, and did priuily hier a kitchen drunge, named Trustie Thomas, a slaue full of pouertie, yet a lustie tall fellow, glad to obtaine the Kinges fauour by accomplyshing of any exployt for gayne: who in receipt of a thousand Crowpes, tooke vpon him the name and person of the Barron of Buckingham, to fight the Combat with the Duke of Suffolke, being of equall proportion and stature. This Trustie Thomas had free libertie to make choyce in the Kinges Armorie, fitting him selfe best for his defence in the surest coate of Steele: and the like passage into the Kinges Stable for the choyce of the most courageous Courser. Thus furnished in most seemely order, for the gayne of money, was content to commit himselfe to the mallice of fortunes hate.

The Duke of Suffolke on the other side, as well furnished in all respectes, nothing doubted the good successe of his aduenture, being borne of a Noble famelie, valiant, and well exercised in the feartes of Armes, reputed for the goodlyest Gentleman in the vniuersall countrey of England: so laying aside his courtly delightes vsed in the blooming time of his youth, and putting on inuincible, firme, and approued magnanimitie of body, he came the night before the Combat should be tryed, to Queene Katherines chamber window, being both prisoners in one Tower, nothing but a wall betweene their seuerall lodgings, where as the Duke of Suffolke sung these Uerses following.

Reuenge, ring out thy knell, let trueth appeare,
To change my bitter Springes to Waters cleare:
Goe packe Deſpaire, thy ſight I doe diſdayne,
My Knightly deedes, bright Honour ſhall obtayne.

Faint Feare, diſlodge thee from my noble breſt,
Thou art no friend of mine, nor wiſhed gueſt:
For coward Captaines wonne no ſtately Forte,
Nor rotten Barke arriues in pleaſant Porte.

Aſſurance tells the ſecrets of my hart,
That Falſehood ſhall receaue his due deſart:
Proud Enuie then ſhall not obſcure the light,
Of Honors brightneſſe, with his hateſull ſpight.

Oh ſacred Heauens, accompliſh my deſier!
That I may quench the Heate of Enuies fier:
Whereby my ſad and diſcontented minde,
May gentle ſolace and ſweete comfort finde.

This ſorrowfull Sonnet ſtroke ſuch a paſſion to the Queenes hart, like one beſpeaking this vaine life, that ſhe deſired vnlefull death haſtely to finiſh her calamities: but yet bearing a princely minde, in ſome meaſure to requite the Dukes curteſie, ſhe anſwered him with theſe Verſes following.

Queene Katherines Song to the Duke of Suffolke.

Good lucke conduct thy minde vnto content,
To conquer him, that is ſo lewdly bent;
To ſet deuiſion betwixt my Lord and me,
In ſpeyling of my blooming chaſtetie.

Stay

Stay Stately Pride, clambe vp thy steps no higher,
But soone dislodge thy hot ambitious fier:
For if Queene Katherine euer hyued so,
Let gravelled Graue be cradle for her woe.

Suspition, leaue to vexe such worthy wightes,
Which spendes their dayes in vertues sweete delightes;
Nor let the crueltie of spightfull foes,
Plant vp a Docke, vnroote a smelling Rose.

Vecterious pompe will shortly seeke to crowne,
Thy princely browes with garlandes of renowne:
Which euermore shall spring and flourish greene,
For thus defending of a wronged Queene.

In this, or such like maner, spent they the night away, to the exceeding comfort of each other, vntill the radient beautie of the next morning began to glitter in the Easterne worlde, which caused them then to take leaue of each other: for at that same instant, the Lord high Marshall in soueraigne iustice, called forth the Duke of Suffolke to shew his prize of Combat, hauing ten olde sage Fathers going before him in mourning Gownes, and white Wands in their handes, like one that went to fetch away the golden Garland of renowne: and comming to the place appointed, he met Truftie Thomas as Defendant, in stead of the proud Barron: vnto whom with a bould courage, he spake as followeth.

Ah thou false Traytor, spoyler of true Honour, thou vnshamefast butcher of innocent blood: Can nothing quench thy insatiate thirst of lasterie, but the guyltlesse bloud of Queene Katherine and my selfe? I doubt not, but thou hast purchased a iust reuenge for thy infamous wickednesse: thou at this present seekest after honorable fame, but the Gods, I hope, will cast thy corpes vnto the most vnworthiest vermine

of

of the earth to pray vpon. Thou feedest thy selfe with false honour, but perpetuall shame shalbe thy best reward. Doth not thy hart tremble at this enterprise? And doth not thy conscience declare thy impietie? It would be a most seemely thing before any blow passe betwixt vs, that thou with sharpe penance reconcile thy selfe vnto the Gods, to haue a comfortable ioy after this like: for there is such inuincible manhood seated in my hart, that the reuenge of thy blood shall acquite thy villanie.

The simple slaue in hearing this Knightly resolution, was so amazed, that with more willingnesse he was redy to delyuer vp his Marshals staffe, then defend the enterprise taken in hand. But the Duke with valiant magnanimitie hastely buckled on his enemie, bleeding him with sound blowes, as if he should say, now is the time eyther of winning or loosing honour: Now, eyther the spot of dishonour shall blurre me, or the shyning light of renowne cleere me for euer. Within sixe blowes the Combat ended, and Trustie Thomas hanged head in his steele Saddle, groueling and foming, with his necke broken: whereat the people with wonderfull admiration shouted, and caused Drummes & Trumpets to be sounded, in signe of victorie.

But a litle before the Combat began, the King gaue the Lord Marshall this charge, that if the Defendant tooke the foyle, his Armour should not be vnbuckled, nor the dead coarse discouered, except it were in his presence. The Marshall as well to accomplish the Kinges pleasure, as a full discharge of his office, caused the said dead body to be transported before the King; vpon whose commaundement, certaine Domenicke Friers (sworne to the same effect) immediatly burned the Peasants filthy corpes, receiuing them rich rewardes, and great promotions for their faythfull seruice shewed therein.

Chap.

CHAP. 4.

¶ How the Duke of Suffolke was banished England, and Queene Katherine condemned to die, with other things that happened.

ALthough the victorious Duke in playne truth thought his enemie dead and vanquished, and when that he expected releasement, he had his calamities the more increased: For the King being stirred vp with indignation against him, and fearing least this base enterprise should be bruted to the taxes of the common people, to his vtter disgrace and infamie, he gave this requitall to the victorious Combitant, and committed by vniversall Proclamation, that the good Duke should within two dayes be banished not onely the Court, but also the boundes and territories of England, with all his Lordly possessions, landes, revenues, rentes, fees, inheritances, but also from his kindred, friendes, and acquaintance. Which heavie a vnprintely sentence did not onely trouble his thoughtes, but greeved the hart of gratious Queene Katherine: that although she was not destitute of many singular good friendes, yet bereft of her best friende, the onely staffe of her life: the losse of whose company, strake such an extreame sorrow vnto her hart, that she lyued lyke one without a soule, weary of the worlde, and all other pleasures, which as then did but finally consent her.

The Duke of Suffolke an houre before the time of his departure,

parture, came to the Queenes lodging to take his leaue: who gaue him a Poope of gold, round faſtened to his necke: the Poſie about the ſame was this.

What earthly place ſo euer harbours thee,
Till death depart (braue Lord) remember mee.

The which being claſped about his necke with two ſiluer claſpes prepared for the ſame purpoſe, whereon was very curiouſly ingrauen two bloody Harts bound together with a True-loues-knot: with many interrupted ſighes and panting ſtomackes, departed they the one from the other, to the great griefe of all the beholders there preſent.

But within an houre after the Dukes departure, the King directed his letters to the Lord high Marſhall, that within two dayes following, the Queene ſhould be beheaded. Which braue newes, and tyrannicall furie, diſpleaſed the mindes of the whole Countrey: for the Kinges vitious lyfe was manifeſted to euery man: beſides, the common people of England caſt their eyes to the multitude of falſe flatterers, which continually haunted the Kinges Court, euery man ſeruing his owne will, glutting in pride, ambition, and whoredome: reaching and roting after ſtately honour, feathering and warming their neſtes, whiſtling merry longes in the Kinges care, and feeding the world with pleaſant delightes: beſides that, many deſperate Ruffines were harboured about the Kinges perſon, whereby euery man became lawleſſe to lyue as he liſted: yet many noble Lords, vertuous, wiſe, and learned Iudges, of his Maieſties priuie Counſell, inwardly mourned the ſtate and time they lyued in, by which meanes the commons loues were drawne to the Queenes fauour, ſo that ſhe wanted no prayers, good will, nor earneſt ſute for her deliuerance: the more her ſorrowes encreaſed, the greater was ſhe fauoured.

The King hereby fell to extreame hatred through his vniuerſall Dominion, and euery man reuely held vp his head.

you to pull the princely Scepter out of his handes. Hee whilst he expected the Queenes execution, a present message was returned him, that she was with childe, (all which being true) yet Iealosie hauing so much power in his vnruly senses, that he could neither alter his present purpose, nor finde a resting place for his vnquiet thoughtes, nor wholsome counsell to cure the disease of his minde: which tyrannicall resolution being wholly bent to the confusion of the gracious Queene, chiefly increased through his Concubines simpling beautie: on whose poysoned sweetenesse he now daighted and fed vpon, did rather apply with curtesie to her humor, then to reprime his Queene from her appointed execution: which resolute purpose, when the good Earle of Sommerset vnderstood, as well to content sundry other Lordes, being partners in the cause, as the purchasing of ciuill tranquilitie to the Kingdome, made this Oration to King Edward: the effect following.

¶ *The Earle of Sommersets Oration to King Edward, for the Queenes reprieue.*

NO greater ornament of glory (most mightie King) may adorne your royall Maiestie, then to reuert to your Princely estate, magnificence, Iustice, and clemencie, (the onely standard of protection which al your Subiects must relt vpon) therfore let wisedome perswade you, to make a conquest of those vices, which in the eyes of the world are apparent; for your Subiectes in general, repute your honorable deare Spouse and vertuous Queene, but your Princely opinion (by flatterers enuie) is hardly perswaded: which if it be continued, will in the ende greedely vanquish and leaue you a common bootie to the worlde. And further more, your common people grudge that your worthy Queene hath been so

nearely examined, wrongfully impriſoned, ſhamefully arraigned, timeleſſly handled, cruelly condemned, and without ſparke of fauour adiudged to die. Alſo, they report that the good Duke of *Suffolke* (being victor in the Combat) is againſt law and iuſtice, baniſhed the land.

All theſe ſtrange cuſtomes (moſt noble Prince) is ridiculous to your gouernment, and offenſiue to your people: and ſince your Queene is falſely accuſed, miſreported and belyed, it were a royall glory, onely for hope of poſteritie, that your vertuous Spouſe were reprined. If you hacke downe the tree, firſt ſaue the fruite: If you graſpe vp the gallant flowers, conſerue the ſeedes: hereby you regarde your deſcent, royallize your name and familie: otherwiſe you ouerthrow your princely Throne, Seate, and Scepter, for euer. As I proteſt (vttering my wordes before the ſupernall Iudge of heauen) that the chaſt body of Queene *Katherine* is pure, vntouched from all deſpight of villanie. So (moſt noble Prince) take her againe into your fauour, adorne your princely Throne with her beautifull countenaunce, recouer your royall name, weede from your Court theſe faigned flatterers, gaping ambitiouſly after gayne: diſcouer the morninges light, and cut the leſſie hilles that ouerſhadow your pleaſant ſpringes. Be not perſwaded, but that the fruite which her body hath formed, from your Maieſties loynes firſt iſſued, is rightly planted, and of a perfect ofſpring, conſidering the Duke of *Suffolke* (vpon waightie affayres) was ſent Embaſſadoure into *Normandie* in the time of your Queenes conception, long before, and many weekes after.

Therefore I doubt not (moſt excellent Prince) but theſe my ſpeaches may mollifie your hart, and procure preſent time to appeare: and in doing ſo, humanity, curteſie & noble mindes, ſhall illuſtrat your perſon, & with pregnant policie adorne your high eſtate and linnage: a rare bloſſome ſprouting out, to the exceeding cõfort of al England.

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The King being resolued (at this the Earle of Somerset's request, with the perswasion of [illegible]) to graunt her repriuement, untill her deliuerance of [illegible] were accomplished, so that his desire in putting her to death, might not afterward be hindered.

This her repriuement did not so much reioyce the sorrowfull hartes of the English Lordes, as it bred anger and discontentment in the Barron of Buckinghams brest, who imbouldned Casiope the Kinges Concubine, to call for the Queenes secret distruction, greatly mistrusting that continuall windes would at length shake the Tower of their prospereritie. The beautie of this faire Casiope seemed in the eyes of King Edward a little earthly Paradise, which changed his inclinations to any way she pleased: for whatsoeuer he openly promised to his Nobles, would he secretly denie before Casiope: and what soeuer was obtayned contrary to her good lyking, was continually crossed with a bad successe.

This costly magnificent Lady, thus vndermined high Mountaines, buylded bridges ouer mighty Seas, and stood as a sure Iron post in the defence and safe conduct of the wicked Barron her professed friend, by art of wordes winding the Kings minde to her ready bent bow, and with beautifull countenance, indeuting his concupiscence against the whole dominion of England: all which, as a manifest trueth on a time approuedly fell out, for after that sundry of the Queenes friendes had deliuered many pittifull petitions for her enlargement, Casiope secretly betweene them selues, taunted the King as followeth.

To what sollitarie wildernes is the ripenes of your pollecie wandred? Shall euery bace Subiect, hauing aspired some promotion, rather of your goodnesse then their owne desertes, change your inclination as they list? For shame my Lord, put on a princely minde; put off this bace relenting hart: let Subiectes penetrate your mindes not as they list, but as you please: let them euermore seeke, and neuer finde

the secret depth of your hart: let them rather grate vpon hard Iron, then soft melting ware: my counsell herein followed and put in practise, will bring speciall welfare to your state, and worthy estimation to all those which attende your person. Further, if Queene Katherine be the pleasant flower that euery one seeketh to smell at, doe but vnroote the stalke, and all their delightes will perish. And to conclude, her lyfe will be your death, and my dishonour.

King Edward harkoning still to the voyce of this nyght-rauen, which dayly crooked for the sweete lyfe of the vertuous Queene, and spent much communication with the king, as well for her dispatchance after her deliuerance from childbirth, as conueying the state of the Kingdome to her issue. The which prickes and dartes of mortall shot throwne out, so inwardly greeued the Lordes of the priuie Counsell, that they departed the Kinges Court, resigned their Offices and rich Fees, and sould their Patrimonies: so that the Kingdome and dominion of Britaine, which before abounded in prosperous felicitie, with manyfold ornamentes of honour, was now ruinated with great pouertie, wretchednesse & miserie. The King neglected the care of his people: the people on the other side, enuied the person of the King: their marchandize and traffiche decayed, their husbandry foresloweed, ground became barren without tillage, and miserable famine ouerspred the whole Countrey: the which consumed breede of Cattle. The golde, siluer, and treasures, was incroached among the wealthiest subiectes who for their better safetie, betooke both themselues and their riches vnder forraigne gouernmentes.

Presently vpon this hurly burly, which happened throughout the whole dominion, the heauens sent this good fortune to Queene Katherine, that in the Lord high Marshals house, she was deliuered in childbirth of two Twins, a Sonne and a Daughter, being two children of an excellent beautie, which by the Marshall was presented to King Edward: who

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although vtterly despysing the Mother, yet not altogeather choaked in ill nature toward the Infantes, speedely celebrated a solleinne Christonning, and caused the man childe to be called Edmond, and the woman childe by the name of Siluia: the which being performed by officiall Priestes, as the manner was in those dayes, but yet not in such a royall sort as Princes children ought to haue been christened: the which being no sooner finished, but the king (kindled in furie against the Infantes, through the persuasion of faire Casiope) caused young Edmond to be conuayed into the Dukedome of Normandy: in which dominion the young Infant in company of his English nurses was most honourably receiued, both because that Duke Robert (being the first of that name) was vnissued, as being a Kings child of royal blood, thinking that the Infant being naturally brought vp, would proue in time, to be a louing Prince to his people, and a carefull Gouernour amongst them.

Further, King Edward in the dispoyle of lawfull posteritie from his dominion and Kingdome, likewise transported faire Siluia with her English Nurses into Denmarke, where very honorable entertainement and comfort was giuen in the Kinges Court: who through age and time, gayned wonderfull estimation. For as Nature had rewarded her with excellent beautie, so Fortune forgot not to replenish her with weashty prosperity, who from her childhood in Princely ornaments, prooued the onely Parragon of Denmarke: where now we will leaue her for a time to her fortunes: and likewise Prince Edmond in the Court of Normandie, and discourse of the miseries that happened to Queene Katherine, after her delivery of childbirth.

Chap,

CHAP. 5.

¶ How Queene Katherine was deliuered from prison by the pollecie of the Earle of London, being her owne brothers and what happened to the Lord Marshall after her departure.

KIng Edward not ending his Telous fury in the bauntshment first of the Duke of Suffolke, the young infant Edmund his ligitimate procreation, and faire Siluia his naturall Daughter, but with a greater determination of mischiefe, presently sent letters to the high Marshall, giuing him a speall charge for the Queenes beheading: protesting by the same letters, what peace and tranquilitie thereby might be purchased to his Countrey.

After receipt of these newes, the night before her death appoynted, the Lord Marshall entred the Queenes lodging, and made relation of his charge giuen by the King for her execution: to whom she with a sober countenance answered in this manner.

My Lord Marshall (sayd the Queene) be not amazed, but accomplish your duetie herein: nor thinke me displeased either with these newes from my deare Husband, or with you the messenger: for I am fully resolued, that my death more greeueth you, then my selfe: and as you haue been euer carefull in my cause, so it is no little sorrow vnto your hart I know, in that my blood through your hands must be imbrued: but this is the day which long I haue looked for, the which being

being now come, I greatly reioyce that my miseries must be finished, and the time of my sorrowes expired: But yet a further comfort relieueth my afflicted minde, in that young Edmond my Sonne, is transported into the handes of the Normaine Duke, and my deare Daughter Silvia, brought vp in the King of Denmarkes Court, a Prince of singuler vertue, and honorable fame: their causes being thus solicited by strangers, helped of vnknowne men, the vigilant eye of fortune cannot choose but be euermore cast vpon them. And now for you my Lord Marshall, I can but giue thankes for all curtesies and assured friendshippes, approuedly shewed to me in these my heauy woes: Good my Lord, to morrow in the morning, when death hasteneth vpon me by the execution of your office, departing and shaking handes with this life, let it not be tedious or ouersmartsome vnto me, but rid me quickly from my miseries.

The Lord Marshall, and the vertuous Lady his wife, being as then present with the Queene, bathing their cheekes with floodes of teares, spake to her, and sayd in these wordes.

If that power were in vs (faire Princesse) your death should be deferred vntill the appoyntment of the mightie powers, whose leasure your enemies should waight vpon: but we fearing the vnhappy successe and heauie burthen thereof would lodge vpon our backes, and incurre the Kinges tyrannicall fury and wrath.

No, no, my deare honorable friends (replied the Queene) I do loyfully prostrate my life to death: Why should I hope after life, sith my Lord and King desireth my dispatchance? If any such accident take place, you my Keepers shall taste the sower, and feele the smart thereof. If I escape, some vniust lot will fall vppon you: if my lyfe through your good meanes should be saued, my enemies would flesh themselues vpon you in contempt.

Nay noble Queene (sayd the Lord Marshall) we are

not afrayd to aduiſe our ſelues in defence of your vertues, but ſhall in time to come ryd and diſpatch theſe bloody varlets from the boſome of this land, which now is made vnhappy by their curſed flatterie. All which could nothing change her vertuous intent, but was readely prepared in minde to ſcale the immortall throwne of heauen. Her wrongfull impriſonment, the falſe accuſations layde againſt her, the vnchaſt lyfe of the King her husband, the infinite cares which ſhe was well acquainted with: all which, gaue full inſtruction, and perſwaded her ſoule to prepare for a heauenly pilgrimage.

Oh (ſayd the ſorrowfull Queene) this life is a wilderneſs of woe, I do abandon my whole reputation, honours, children, friendes, and worldly eſtimation, as fading ſhadowes. Oh layd ſhe, my enemies haue charged me with adultry, but the Gods know me a blameles innocent, as yet neuer ſtayned with the purple ſpot of infamie.

The high Marſhall and his wife, paſſing all the whole nyght in theſe ſuch like vertuous ſpeaches, aduiſing and framing her minde to the euerlaſting voyage, where ſhe purpoſed to reſt her vnſpotted conſience, and to weare the celeſtiall crowne of peace, prepared for all ſuch chaſt Ladyes wrongfully accuſed.

But now ſpeake we againe of the wicked Barron of Buckingham, who early in the morning came with a mightie bande of warlike Souldiers, appointed to execute the Kings commaundement, beſetting the lord Marſhals houſe round about, leaſt the condemned Queene ſhould be reſchewed from death: and being thus placed in the ſtreetes, the Earle of London being the Queenes owne brother, accompanied with certaine other Gentlemen of worth, all which attyred in Fryers garmentes, craued licence of the common Souldiers, to go and talke with the Queene touching the eſtate of her conſcience, belonging to their function and callyng, that though their good counſell, ſhe might at the

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lower of death be well aduised, least either vanquished with impenitencie, or throwne downe into desperation, and her lyfe should be tedious and full of tormentes.

These good causes earnestly considered by the Barron and his Souldiers, obtayned them a free recourse to the condemned Queene: whom they presently changed from Princely ornaments into a Friers weede, & so conducted her through the whole Garrison of Souldiers without examination or suspition: and being in this secret and disguysed maner transported to the end of the towne, the Earle of London had there prepared a Wagon, which speedely caryed her onely in his company farre from the danger of their enemies. This renowned pollicie do I repeate for a vertuous deede, in delyuering the guiltlesse Queene from the handes of such Tyrants: an action worthy to be registred in the golden booke of Fame, to shine as a mirrour to all ensuing ages.

Shortly after the Queenes departure, thus succoured by her beloued Brother, the wicked Barron called at the Marshals gate, commaunding him to bring forth his Prisoner, shewing himselfe as though he were greatly displeased and stirred up with impossible choller, chasing and fuming as though he would teare her in peeces himselfe, saying. What, doe you dallie with the Kinges Commaundement? Or, doth it grieue her to leaue this transitorie world? Is this the patient Queene, which with her faigned holynesse hath so craftely crept into the fauour of the common people? Bid her not feare to hoyst up sayle towardes heauen, hauing a merry winde: Bid her beholde hole Angels and celestiall troupe, stand here attending, safely to conduct her to the Gods themselues.

These spightfull tauntes giuen against the Queene, bred such a furie in the Lord Marshals wife, that she could not withholde her anger any longer, but desperatly stept forth, and reuyled the Barron in this manner, saying.

Oh thou incarnate Diuell (quoth ſhe) art not thou content to reake thy villanous minde by wrongfull accuſation againſt the good Queene, but thus rediculouſly to abuſe her miſeries? (So ſhe vttered a thouſand ſuch deſpightful words, inforced with deadly furie and fierie choller, after the ſimple ſexe of woman kinde, as if it had conſiſted in her power to haue puniſhed the Barron: ſhe yeelded ſo much to wrathful deſires, that no law could haue tamed her tongue, nor reſtrayned the rage of her irefull indiſcretion:) Go ſeeke the guiltleſſe Queene (ſaid ſhe) it is vnknowne to my Lord and husband where, and to what place ſhe hath attayned. I verely ſuppoſe that ſhe is gon downe into the bottomleſſe pit of hell, to ſeeke ſuch a wicked varlet as thou art: for in heauen I know ſhe cannot finde thee forth.

Well (ſayth the Barron) bring her forth according to the ſentence of iudgement, or els the ſmart will fall vpon your ſhoulders, as well for violating the lawes of our land, as contemning the Kinges will and pleaſure.

Vpon theſe words, certaine of his moſt truſtieſt Souldiers violently ruſhed into the Lord Marſhalles houſe, and with diligent view left no corner vnſearched: and at laſt perceiuing it a manifeſt trueth that the Queene was ſecretly conueyed away, they brought preſent word backe to the Barron: who in a rigorous bolonelle, cauſed a bloody purſute preſently to be made: whom the Lord Marſhall, his wife, children, and familie, were put to sharpe dint of ſword, and hot broyles of conſuming fire, ſaue onely one of his children, a proper faire Virgin, being as then abſent from her father and mother, brought vp with the Earle of London, the Queenes owne brother: who after, was trayned vp in all honorable education by Queene Katherine: whom we will leaue, trauelling like baniſhed exiles, from their native Country.

The Barron after this murtherſome conflict, returned ſafe to King Edwardes preſence: who not onely rewarded

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his valiant seruice with gold & rich treasures, but indewes him with great landes and reuenewes: and besides all which, by letter of Deputation, he constituted him to guide and gouerne his whole dominions.

CHAP. 6.

¶ How King Edwardes Concubine the faire Casiope, was deliuered of a bastard Sonne, and of the secret fauours betweene her and the Barron.

THE King after all these things were finished (as you heard discoursed in the former Chapter) promised securitie to him selfe, princely renowne to his minion Casiope, and royall aduancement to his trustie counsellour the Barron of Buckingham: yet the loue of Subiectes, a guiltlesse conscience, and a good name (being the chiefe grounduorkes of peace) were wanting: besides which, the King vtterly deceiued in his owne imaginations, for that penall shame began euery howre to knocke at his gates, staining his glory with infamie and dishonour.

Casiope his amorous Lady, being great with child, the which shame, heauen had appointed for the common sorrow of people continually to talke vpon: besides which, the Kings vile affection pestered with leawd lust, neuer glutted, but dayly plunging in the sea of vaine delectations, Casiope on her behalfe, with prouident discretion preuented her seuerall downefall: for perceiuing the Kinges head tossed with inconstant inclinations, his treadinges loose & vnsure, (on whom she principally depended) she iudged that she

could not be so safely imbarked as her expectation desired, and therefore dayly wished that she had ended well, where she had so ill begun.

Thus tottering vpon a broken bridge, by little and little cast her selfe into the loue and good liking of the Barron, who vsed many secret contemplations, feeding each other with artificiall fauours, as opportunitie happely ministred occasion, and misspent no one houre in the day without yeelding some amorous fruites.

King Edward being vtterly vnacquainted with these vnstable trickes, neuer mistrusted the cunning conueyance of Cassiopes leawd life, who passed foorth her time so warely without suspition, vntill she was deliuered: the which being fully expired, was to the King a secret solace, but an open shame: a priuate comfort to him selfe, but a publique infamie to the land: a man child was brought foorth into the worlde, the which in processe of time, approued the onely poyson by which the King was choaked, and a Caterpiller through whom the common wealth was gnawne.

But alas, who would regard and esteeme of an vnnaturall Bastard, borne in a lower Crab-stocke, and vtterly reiect the good Children of Queene Katherine, bred and nourished in the sweete Apple-tree, which was christned in mourning and sorrowfull teares, without any pompe and glory? Where contrarywise this Bastard, the childe of a Harlot, was royally receiued into the Church, and christened by the name of Valentinus, with such sumptuous magnificence, as no King could surpasse in such a case: for many were the Triumphes, solemne Iustes, and costly Barquetinges, that were kept in the English Court in the honour of his name: the which for brieuetie sake, I here passe ouer, least I should be a hinderaunce to our following Discourse.

No small consolation tooke King Edward in the reuocation and bringing vp of this filthy young venimous ver-

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mine Vallentinus, who being dazeled in dotage, immagined winter stormes ouerpast, and the pleasant arriuall of a faire Sommer to be at hand: yet was he nipt and attached with a priuie disease in his browes, by meanes of the new enioyned loue of the Barron and Caliope: whose league of friendshyp, and fallhood of flatterie, so blinded the Kinges conceites, that no mistrustfulnesse of their lewde sportes could arise. First, sweetning his mouth with the braue beautie of Caliope. Secondly, reioyceing in the pollecie of the Barron. And thirdly, allured with the hope and budding fourth of the bastardly blossome Vallentinus: the which I compare to three broken Staues, whereon the King tooke his chiefest holde.

¶What a long relation could I make of the sport and dalliance begunne betweene the wicked Barron and proude Caliope, hauing bended the King to their bow, commaunding the whole dominion, and controwlyng what so euer seemed best to them selues. And whereas in the dayes of vertuous Queene Katherine, the Kings head was diseasen and fraughted with the thewme of Ielowsie, so now his Darlyng, and cunning Counceller, gaue him a greater glister beneath, for his head-aking Kurchife aboue: for she peeled her body and loue to the Barrons pleasure. ¶When the King was sleeping, they would be waking: when the King was in his Chamber, they were handling prettie topes in the Cloister: when the King was in one place, they were in an other keeping company together, discoursing vpon louers lawes. In which pleasure, we will leaue them solacing, and returne to Queene Katherine, and her brother the Earle of London.

CHAP.

CHAP. 7.

¶ Of Queene Katherines arriuall in Normandie, and of her entertainement in Duke Roberts Court.

After the Queene (by the pollecie of her brother) had escaped the furious intended tyrannie of her foes, accompanied with the Lord Marshals Daughter tending and waighting vpon the Queenes person, with great care and indeuour tooke Shippe, hauing a merry winde, hoysted vp sayle towards Normandie: into which country her young sonne Prince Edmond was before conueyed and arriued. The tediousnesse of this iourney was not so much troublesome, as the dangerous dashing vpon craggie Rockes hazarded their liues: but yet Fortune in the middle of their miseries fauouring them, cast them happely vpon a fruitfull Iland bordering vpon the confines of Normandie: in which place a right noble Knight inhabited, gouerning the people with great wisedome: into whose presence being no sooner come, but the Earle of London, in the name of the Queene & Lord Marshals daughter, spake to the Knight as followeth.

Most worthy man (sayd he) we being strangers to thy people & Iland, by vnhappy misaduentures are compelled hither to make our refuge, and to seeke friendship among you: for I am to let you vnderstand, that here is the renowned Queene Katherine of England, whose fame (I know) hath full often sounded in your eares: the which distressed Queene, long vexed with captiuitie, arraigned, and condemned to die, but yet (by good fortune) escaping the

subtile

subtile snares of her enemies, hath betooke her selfe to banishment: and now hardly auoyding shypwracke, committeth her selfe to your mercie. She hath not left her natiue soyle for any euill desart, leawd behauiour, or misgouerning her lyfe, for she is a continent and chast Matron, bearing the glory of vertue in her countenance: but yet a cruell and vniust woe chaunced vnto her young dayes, to become the nuptiall Spouse of a voluptuous vnchast King, who more esteemed the false desembling face of a Harlot, then the chast beautie of this vertuous Queene: and yeelded more credite to the vniust accusation of a flattering Peere, then to the pittifull teares of this honorable person: whose lyfe from her infancie hath hitherto continued without blemish: Therefore now we hope, that mercy wayghteth in the gates of the righteous, euer to relieue the distressed trauellers.

This being sayd, the Knight hauing a good lykeing to the bright honour which vertuously appeared in their faces, vouchsafed to giue them a fauourable entertainement: and according to the worthynesse of honorable strangers, he reteyned them with great kindnesse: who not refusing his willing offer, with great humilitie thanked his curteste, esteeming them selues in aduersitie, as pilgrimes throwne vpon strange rockes of hard fortune, were exceeding glad of friendes and friendshyp.

This bountifull Knight more to honour their estates, commaunded the best and wealthiest subiectes within the Iland to attend their persons, and to prouide al necessaries for their needfull want: besides which, the most pleasantest buyldinges within the Iland were appoynted for their lodginges: who after long recreation, refreshing their wearie miseries with good ease, they craued libertie to depart.

But at the time of their abode in the Iland, the Knight was grieued with a most strange disease, the which most cruelly tormented him through all the partes of his body:

but Queene Katherine taking a view of the ſame, ſayd vnto him in theſe wordes. Your diſeaſe good Sir, is euidently knowne vnto me, being already partly acquainted with the nature thereof. I am no profeſſed Phiſition, nor Chirurgian: but yet if it ſtand with your good pleaſure to aduenture your ſelfe vpon my ſimple ſkill (although a ſtranger) yet will I ſhew my vttermoſt experience in the recouery of your health.

Moſt renowned Queene (replyed the Knight) I can but thanke you for your curteous offered friendſhyp: but if my health may be recouered by your knowledge, I ſhal obtaine a greater benefit from your good grace, then euer yet could be miniſtred by any mortall creature. I haue to my great coſt and charge, entertained many graue and learned Phiſitians and Chirurgions, from ſundry famous places of the World: yea men of renowned credite, haue trauelled vnto me, yet hitherto I neuer could, neither by wiſedome, cunning, learning, policy, nor practiſe, be remedied or eaſed.

But now ſuch was the vertue and grace of this noble Queene, that although ſhe was of royall blood, yet the fulſomneſſe of the diſeaſe neither was lothſome vnto her, neyther the daintineſſe which her degree might require, did cauſe her to refuſe any payner for accompliſhment of his health: but ſo ſhe applyed her medicines within and without, of ſuch vertue and effect, that in ſhort time the Knight recouered not onely his health, but liued long after a very perfect and ſound man.

The Knight hauing thus made a tryall of the incomparable vertue, wiſedome, learning, and moueſt chaſtetie of this noble Queene, cauſed her renowme to be publyſhed in many forraigne Nations, and rewarded her with great treaſures: lykewiſe appoynting a ſure Ship, truſtie Marriners, with great ſtore of proviſion, for her paſſage into Normandie: likewiſe, he writ a letter to Duke Robert, touching her rare and excellent ornamentes of Nature:

yea,

yea, what a renowned Woman his Countrey was lyke to enioy, wishing that his fortune had been worthy of so blessed & good a creature to haue dwelled amongst his people. Thus this good Queene, her deare Brother, with the residue of her honorable company, passed fourth their iourney towardes Normandie, where, & into which Countrey, she was royally entertayned of Duke Robert, his Dutchesse, and principall estates of that Nation, and received fauour of all other sortes of people for her courteous behauiour. In this Countrey, her ornamentes of skill, worthynesse of vertue, and studious learning, so increased, flowed, and abounded, whereby she was able to dispute, talke, and reason, with the learnedst Politicon in the worlde: for she was so much guyded by wisedomes lore, that many foreaigne Princes came to reuerence her: besides, common people full of sundry diseases, homaged to her person for remedy and ease, some for one griefe, some for another. And to conclude, there is no disease which this gracious Queene tooke in hand, but her excellent knowledge gaue health and soundnesse. Oh how many Princes and great Monarkes of the worlde were content to stoope (for health of body) to this worthy Woman. What wonderfull treasures and rich sewels were daily layde before her, sent from all partes of the earth, in respect of her magnificence, renowned fame, and admirable credite, being uniuersally spread through all the dominions of the world.

CHAP.

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CHAP. 8.

¶ How King Edward grew in misliking with his faire minion, and her secret friend the wicked Barron: and how by their meanes he was deposed, and constrained to forsake his natiue countrey.

THE fame of Queene Katherines glory (obtained in the Dukedome of Normandie) did more depresse and martyre her enemies in England, then if she had made a conquest of them with fourtie thousande men of warre: the which her good successe abroad (being fauored in a forraigne nation) did not a little fret the cankered stomackes of her foes at home, as King Edward her husband, Casiope, & the Barron of Buckinggam, which greatly repented themselues that better forecast had not setled in their heades, in the preuention of such mischiefes, by the Queenes prosperous euent like to ensue.

Casiope enioying the loue, pleasure, and faythfull seruice of her deare friend the Barron, beginning now to fadome the deepest waters, and to blind the Kinges eyes with the foggy mistes of her deceitfull smiles: who as an instrument of folly, was drawne to what purpose his Minion pleased, first framed by the Barrons fraudulent deuises, ceassed not more and more to vse their wittes in the best manner they could to maintaine their vniust loues: and being in a feare, least their leawd lettcherie should come to the Kinges eares, the which not a little tormented their thoughtes, aduised themselues by priuie consultation togither, how they might best procure their owne safetie. So by subtile science of wit, they inueigled the King to delyuer vp the title of his gouern-

gouernment and dominion to young Valentinus his Bastard sonne: all which being brought to vnhappy passe, Cassiope and the Barron her louer, for recreation sake, might the more safer vse their pleasant delygytes in the Kinges presence without suspition, as though no blemish were in beautie, nor lewdnesse in loue.

The King being thus deposed, many times sitting like a wizard, desolately left to himselfe, putting a by, reseruing onely by the yeere fiue thousand crownes, and the wicked Barron appointed the Lord Protector of young Valentinus: who was brought vp according to his wished desire.

King Edward now being discharged from the heauie burthen of a Crowne, early in a summers morning (to refresh his vnited wits) road forth into a faire greene Forrest, forsaking his company and traine, and prauncing his Courser somewhat a side, by chaunce he met with a poore countrey Pesant, being a Shepheard by profession: whom he saluted on this manner. Good morrow fellow (sayd the King) whither art thou trauelling? Good sir (answered the Shepheard) I am trauelling to London about necessarie businesse. But tell me (quoth King Edward) dost thou know the King of this Land? No by my troth (sayd he) I know him not, neither do I care if I neuer do, except his maners were better, and his wittes more surer. What (sayd the King) doth his manners indammage or hurt thee? No (sayd the Shepheard) but he hurtes both himselfe, his subiectes, and his whole Countrey. The King being inwardly chafed hereat, could hardly gouerne nature, or tie vp affection, to heare the poore countrey fellow reckon vp his abhominable life: but yet dissembling a little longer, he asked him what reportes the Countrey did giue out of Lady Cassiope? Marry (sayd the Shepheard) some say that she is a lewde Curtezan, & one that hath almost vndone this noble fruitfull dominion, which for many hundred yeeres hath been vertuously guided, now ouerthrowne by Cassiope: whose

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wicked counsell first procured the bannishment of Queene Katherine and her children, and now hath vsurped the Crowne and Scepter to Vallentinus her bastard Sonne: besides which, the King is vsed as a fiddle to play vpon: for the Barron of Buckingham day and nyght gathereth the choysest flowers out of his Maiesties Garden: the which is no small griefe to his Subiectes hartes. More would the Shepheard haue spoken, had not King Edward interrupted him in this manner. Good fellow (quoth he) know, that I my selfe am the King, charging and commaunding thee vpon paine of death, to giue attendaunce at the Court, there to auow & vtter at large the same words to Casiope, which thou hast here already discouered to me. I will be thy safegarde from all harmes, & will richly reward thy paines therein taken.

Thus in a discontented humor departed the King after his company: and being returned backe to the Court, there he found the Shepheard according to his commandement giuen, who seemed to play his part before King Edward, in the presence of Casiope, counterfayting the iesture of an Iddiot, pleasantly conceited himselfe to expell fantasticall immaginations from the Kinges braynes. My Lord (saith the Shepheard) you haue a faire Pond, replenished with daintie Fish, preserued for your owne taste, but yet deceitfully robbed by night, by one which flattereth you by day. Your white Swan swimming in a most pleasant Riuer, preserued by you, but is pluckt by others. Your dellicate Plumb-tree, daintely kept for your owne tooth, hath her boughes broken by a priuie practiser: but such is your liberall and franke hart (I know) that if within your Garden a sweete posie be gathered, and sufficient smelles left behind to refresh your sences, it will be no griefe at all: for thinges vnseene of the eye, is not rewed of the hart.

This biting talke of the Shepheard, so opened the kings blind sences, that he began to haue cleare knowledge of Casiope

siope and the Barrons violent villanies, whereby he fel into witles fury, watching the gates while the City is on fire: and thought to subdue Casiopes inclination, when he himselfe was slaine before: so great was his griefe, that he began to curse and sweare, wishing himselfe dead: and reputed himselfe aboue all others, the most accursed, in giuing credite to false Curtezans, and dissembling Paracites.

Well (sayth Casiope) if my sight and company haue glutted and pampered your affections, I pray you make speedy deuoydance of me. I will not impaire your honour. I was neuer accounted a leawd liuer, before I met with a violent leacher: and if you so gladly desire to forsake my societie, I must brooke and digest your hard nature in the same, as well as I may.

These furious stormes ouerpassed, the Barron the next night following, inticed the Shepheard to a secret corner of the Kings Pallace, where he thrust a sharpe sword through his hart, and buried the peasantes carcasse within a stinking dunghill: the report whereof pierced the kings eares with extreame griefe: but seeing helpe preuayled not, as a man plagued in his head, & diseased in his browes, he vpbrayded Casiope of falshood and ingratitude in this manner.

If that wise and learned councell in times past, could haue reformed my wilfull follies, I had not now bin ouerturned. If I had been guided by the example of the gentle Reed, bending with euery wind hither and thither, I had not now like the proude stately Oake (ouer high in mine owne conceite) been cast vp by the rootes. The same shamefull scorne now happeneth to me, as to the simple Goate, who meeting with the craftie Foxe, drinking both togither in a deepe ditch, where the Foxe by faire wordes procured the Goate with his hornes to lift him vp to the high bankes: the simple Goate beleeuing ouermuch to ẏ Foxes faire words, performed his request, and left himselfe still in the ditch, not knowing how to escape, wishing that he had better conside-

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red before hand, what would follow after: ſo ſurely, if gouernement in the beginning had foreſeene the ende, I had not now been ſubiect to your wicked, falſe, and diſguiſed diſſimulations. Haue I hatred in place of friendſhyp? hath familiarity brought contempt? and hath beneuolence nurſed ingratitude? I haue neglected all mens counſels, to prefer and aduance your reputations. I haue banished wife and children, forſaken friendes and ſubiectes, ſtripped my ſelfe from all honors, and reſigned my Crowne and Scepter into your handes, onely to ſatisfie your willes and pleaſures in all pointes: yet for all this, brute Beaſtes, and Fowles of the ayre, in all thankfulneſſe and humanitie, exceed your ſauadge natures.

In this manner King Edward ſought to recobtaine the wonted fauour and good liking of Cliſope & the Barron, who keeping ſtill ſilence, in a great ſmuſſe departed the Kinges Pallace to an other houſe, which they inioyed in the right of Vallentinus the Baſtard: and being there ſetled, the Barron writ this Letter backe to the King, as followeth.

The Barron of Buckinghams Letter ſent to King Edward.

YOVR euill deſartes, and franticke faſhions, hath ſo highly offended your deareſt friendes, that they haue refuſed at any time hereafter, to hazard credite, life, and goodes, in your behalfe: And ſince you haue forgot the right rule of honeſt life, abandoning the ſpeciall care of the Common-wealth (which inconueniences grow through your negligent ſlouthfulneſſe) our purpoſe is therefore to haue it reformed: And now ſince Fortune hath appoynted me an honorable Magiſtrate, in the right of vertuous *Vallentinus*, I am readely bent to abridge and cut off your licentious minde and

care-

careleſſe liuing: For as you haue diſpoſſeſſed your ſelfe from princely gouernment of the Realme, ſo we muſt conſtraine you either to liue as a priuate perſon, or els by baniſhment inforce you to forſake the land, whereby we may the better appeaſe homebred mutenies, repreſſe the practiſes of forraigne foes, and preuent the pollecies of Queene *Katherine* and her councellours: all which, concerneth the eſtabliſhment of that famous young Prince *Vallentinus*. And whereas you, hoping after the loue of *Caſiope*, whom you haue long time wrongfully abuſed, and made a poyntingſtocke for the world to wonder at; but now, repenting of her former amiſſe, ſhe determineth to retyer from infamie, and to match in honeſt marriage with my perſon, being the onely ſuer ſtaffe of her vertuous life: Therefore (to be ſhort) take this choyce vnto your ſelfe, either to depart quietly into ſome forraigne Region, or els to liue a priuate life in your owne Countrey, not once comming within the ſights of our royall Court: Therefore if wiſedome may rightly perſwade you, I do not then doubt, but that you will accept that good ordinarie way, which ſhall bring you the beſt ſecuritie. I end.

By me the Lord Protector of the young Prince Vallentinus.

After King Edward had peruſed theſe ſawcy and malepert Letters, he ſtayed and meached vpon the Barrons former flatterie: and ſeeing this ſodaine change of lowery, he often times ſighed, remembring in what ouerſight he was led and allured, iniuriouſly defaming & banishing his deare beloued Queene, cruelly murthering the Lord high Marſhall, his wife and children, and himſelfe vtterly diſpoyled, ouermuch truſting to the tryfling pleaſures of an

Harlot, and leaning too much to the falſe allurements of a trayterous flatterer: through whoſe wicked perſwaſions, he ſent his naturall children to the aduentures of rouing fortune: ſo alſo hauing reſigned the keyes of his kingdome to a baſtardly miſcreant, the ſonne of a wicked ſtrumpet: all which did not ſo much grieue his tormented minde, as in that he was made a ieſting ſtocke to the world, degenerated from royall blood: ſuch was his diſtreſſe, that his Noblemen, graue Councellers, and valiant Captaines forſooke him, and left him to his miſerie: and his poore and needie Subiectes cryed out for due vengeance vpon him.

Thus finding no conſolation in his extremitie, he thus conferred with himſelfe. Oh (ſayd King Edward) if I ſtay within the territories of my Kingdome, euery man will ſcorne my wretched plight: of whom (with reaſonable requeſtes) I may neither craue mercy nor ſuccour, hauing ſo vniuſtly wronged my countrey with an euerlaſting plague: beſides that, my miſled life is offenſiue, odious, and diſdainfull to the company of men. How may I expect ſafety amongſt my countrimen, being a King of royal blood, turnd from my gouernment, bereft from dignities, honour, and renowne, and forced to take a ſtipende of ſixe thouſande crownes towardes my maintenance, payd by the diſcretion of flattering traytors:

The King vpon theſe inwarde piercing ſorrowes, departed his dominian & native Countrey, and without company like a Pilgrime, wandered to what place fortune had appoynted, & his owne follies deſerued: ſo trauelling many dayes through ſtrange Countries, it was his chaunce to ariue in the Dukedome of Bronſwick, where being deſtitute of money, he was forced to ſell al the Rings, Chaines, Iewels, and other ornamentes of Gold, whereby in a ſhort time he conſumed all that he had, & was compelled through penurie and want, to craue the good will of well diſpoſed people: but euery one beholding his gallant Coate vpon his

backe,

backe, his coſtly hat vpon his head, & his imbrodered hoſe vpon his legges, eſteemed him ſome ſtout runnagate, which more delighted in wandering wilduelle, then in good ſeruice: or, one that was ſent abroad as a Spye to view the commodities of their Land and Countrey, and therefore would no man extende friendſhip nor reliefe towardes his comfort.

Being thus a pretty while pinched with hunger & want, and conſidering that his laſt plague happened through the deſartes of his former lyfe, he thought with him ſelfe what good way might be beſt taken in ſo extreame a miſery, eyther with ſhame to make knowne what he was, or els to liue in hope of ſome better chaunce in time to come: and being in a ſtrange Countrey, he was the leſſe aſhamed of his foule reproach: and farre from acquaintance, his calamities became the more hardoned.

So early in a morning trauelling on his way, in hope of a better recouery, he met by chaunce with an old poore wretched Beggar, hauing a ſimple patcht cloake vpō his backe, the which the King deſired to exchange for his coſtly veſtures: a couenant betwixt them both quickly concluded, and being both contented, they ſtripped themſelues to their naked ſkinnes, the King putting on the Beggars poore patched ornamentes, and contrariwiſe the poore Beggar addreſſing himſelfe in the Kinges coſtly apparrell, and ſo departed one frō the other, without any further conference. Thus after leaue being taken, the King in his ſimple weeds layd him downe vpon the greene graſſe, he opened the Beggars budget or ſcrip, and found ſuch good ſtore of browne Bread, hard Cheeſe, and Bacon, that he very well relieued his terrible hunger: after which good Banquet, he roſe vp and went vnto a cleere Spring neare adioyning, & drunke ſuch an inſatiable draught as though it had bin ſome Horſe or Mule after my prouender.

Thus after King Edward had well refreſhed his hun-

ger, and ſatisfied his greedy guts almoſt clunged togither for lacke of food and ſuſtenaunce, he paſſed further into the Countrey, continuing ſtill this courſe of life, and trauelling from place to place, he was at laſt, according to the ſtraight lawes of that Countrey, apprehended and taken for a vagarant runnagate: where, beeing brought before the Magiſtrates, he was impriſoned, whipped, and rigorouſly puniſhed.

About ſome two months after theſe ſharpe conflictes, and grieuous puniſhmentes, a vertuous Gentleman of that countrey, reſorting by chaunce vnto the common Priſon, to relieue the wretched eſtate of miſerable Captiues, hee by fortune caſt his eye vpon the King, which as then lay faſt fettered in Chaynes, of whom he demaunded what countrey man he was? Who anſwered, that he was an Engliſh-man borne, impriſoned neither for treaſon, murther, nor theft, but onely becauſe he being a ſtranger, was inforced to craue reliefe of well diſpoſed people.

The Gentleman perceiuing King Edward well qualified in learning, and ſeeming to be ready and perfect in the Latine and Greeke tongues, he was content to obtaine his inlargement, and freely to ſet him at libertie, if hee within his houſe would become a Schoolemaiſter for the bringing vp of his children.

The King being ioyfull of this offer, and hoping after ſome better dayes, he yeelded to the Gentlemans requeſt: where, after long ſeruice in the trade of a Schoolemaiſter, ſo paynefully imploying his diligence to the profite of his Schollers, that he obtayned the well liking & high fauour of his Maiſter & Miſtris, and was loued of the whole famelie: and in continuance of time, by theſe good occaſions offered, he made open confeſſion to his Maiſter, that he was the royall King of England; the which being vnderſtood by the Gentleman, foorthwith (as much as his ability would ſerue) he ſafely conueyed him in comely apparrell, iewels,

money,

money, and other prouision, to his daughter Siluia, brought vp as then in the Denmarke Court: vpon whose arriuall there, newes was sent vnto the King, that a stranger, being an English-man by birth, was desirous to speake with his Maiestie: who being full of friendly entertainement, receiued him in a most royall maner: and being come before his presence, King Edward spake as followeth.

The tempestes of aduersitie (right excellent King) hath brought me vnto your presence, not in any euill pretence against your Countrey, but as one trayterously deceiued by ambitious Subiectes. For, know (most noble Prince) that I am the vnhappy King of England, banished from my Countries & Dominions, and bereft from Princely titles, honour, and renowne: And now, sith my deare Daughter and child faire Siluia, her at your cost & charge is brought vp, nature and affection hath drawne me hither to see her.

This being sayd, the Denmarke King with right good grace reioyced, and both courteously receiued and reuerenced him, proffering him friendship, power, & assistance, as wel to maintaine his present estate, as to restore him againe vnto his Kingdome. Faire Siluia with great obedience presented her selfe before King Edward her father: who greatly commended her beautie, and diuine gyftes of nature, condemning his owne hard hart, in banyshyng her so vnnaturally from her natiue Countrey: for I wish (sayd he) my graue had swallowed me aliue, when first my malitious minde committed her to banishment. Therfore in requitall of that iniurie, faire Siluia, if euer I recouer againe my right, refuse not to be crowned the royall Queene of England. These, and many more like speaches past betwixt King Edward and his Daughter, during the time of his abode in the Denmarke Court: the which King, gaue him such honorable mayntenance, as belonged to his princely estate: the rather, because he esteemed faire Siluia a meete wife for his sonne and heire young Elfricke, both being of

an equall age, and nurſed vp togither.

Thus the Denmarke King reuiued with a gladſome hope of climbing the higheſt top of theſe famous dignities, did make no ſpare of coſt for ỹ accompliſhing of his haughtie expectation. Alſo, King Edward made a determined purpoſe with more deliberation and ripet iudgement, to reobtaine his dominion and gouernment.

CHAP. 9.

¶ How Vallentinus the baſtard was crowned King, and how he through the perſwaſions of Peree of Wincheſter, cauſed his owne Mother, with her Paramour the wicked Barron, to be moſt ſtrangely put to death.

NOW muſt we ſpeake againe of the troubles that happened in England after the Kinges banniſhment, where the wicked Barron and his minion Caſiope, many a day practiſed their wits not onely for euer to bar King Edward from his kingdome, but vſed diligent watch, and examined the bottome of euery attempt that might practiſe his returne: but at laſt they concluded vpon the coronation of young Vallentinus, and reſigned the Crowne and Scepter into his handes, which before time they had reſerued to his vſe, for declaration of true obedience. Many of the beſt Subiectes did weare diſloyaltie to King Edward, and ſubiection to the Baſtard: who had no ſooner falſely vſurpt the Crowne, but by vnkind behauiour, he altered the mindes of the welthyeſt Subiectes, who in ſecuritie of their liues, forſoke their native Countries, whereby the Realme was left vnpeopled, without vil-

lage,

lage, destitute of bread, bereft of money, treasures, and traffick of marchandize from other dominions: for, their necessary trades decayed, and all thinges grew out of frame and good order.

But now Vallentinus the Bastard, beginning to grow proud, ryotous, and wanton, disdayned the wonted checkes of the Barron and his Mother, who many times sought to controwle his wretchles like, through which a great mislliking and dissention grew amongst them: and to make enuie the more riper, there was one Sir Perce of Winchester, a natble cunning youth, brought vp with Vallentinus, and wholly of his counsell, who knowing him to be no lawfull Prince, but an vsurper: also viewing the wofull calamitie and ruine the Countrey was brought into, stirred kinders more hotter against them: for he so flattered the young King, feeding his humors, and aduised him to reiect the Barron and Casiope his Mother, to make deny all of their checkes, contemne their controulments, and to beare sway of his owne absolute authoritie.

Thus being incensed by Sir Perce, he began to rouse vp his peacocks fethers, and to beare a malitious hatred against the Barron and his Mother, his best friendes and chiefe aduancers. Sir Perce nothing sayling in all maner of deceites, playde likewise on the other side, and vnder the colour of loue that he bore to the young Prince, he wished and exhorted them sharply to reproue the vnbridled life of Vallentinus. Thus ambodexter like, the young flatterer Sir Perce of Winchester, vnder a cloake of true loue, still feeding the stubborne and vnciuill natures of both parties, planted vp most waighty cannons, and battered the strongest walles of the Kingdome.

Casiope and the Barron, thinking themselues without hope of reclayming Vallentinus, secretly departed his Court, and rayled vp an armie of well approued Souldiers, and attempted as well to ransacke his Pallace, as the appre-

apprehention of his perſon. Vallentinus (through the cunning of Sir Perce) was admoniſhed of this deuice and practiſe, and muſtred into his ſeruice the moſt courageous and valiant Captaines, and beſt approued Souldiers that could be found. But now the Barron with his Armie ſeeking to preuent them, fought ſuch an vnlucky Battayle, that two thouſand of his braueſt followers came to foyle and ſlaughter, and him ſelfe and Caſiope taken priſoners: who by the furious crueltie of the young Prince, was clapt vp in priſon, to abide a hard and mercileſſe captiuitie.

Hauing thus taken an occaſion of the time and fortune, he conſulted with Sir Perce what was beſt to be done in ſuch a buſineſſe: who hauing a wilie wit and a craftie capacitie, whiſpered priuily in the Princes eares, and aduiſed him to iudge them to a ſperdy execution: for doubt you not (quoth he) but there is iuſt cauſes to be layd againſt them: as chiefly your Mothers filthy adulterous lyfe with that baſe and wicked Barron, whoſe trayterous minde hath not onely moued this Rebellion, but hath bin the cauſe of your deare Fathers baniſhment: And being now in ſafe cuſtodie, let no good fortune be neglected, till you haue exyrelled the duetie of a louing Childe, by their diſpatchance out of this tranſitorie worlde.

Vallentinus now wholly falling his minde more vpon prodigalitie, ambition, and vaine glory, then publike profite to his Crowne and Countrey, and was ignorant what danger would enſue in cutting off the Barron and his Mother, beeing his beſt friendes and ſureſt proppes in all extremities: therefore without any further conſideration, he erected, furniſhed, and ſumptuouſly buylded a ſtrong Tower, very ſplendant & admirable to behold, of wonderfull largeneſſe, deapth, and hight. He alſo cauſed a Gibbet to be faſtened vpon the toppe thereof: the which being no ſooner finiſhed by the handie worke of cunning Artificers, but he commaunded the Barron and his Mother Caſiope bel-

yghe

p'ghtfully to be brought forth, as scornes of the world to rest vpon: where, casting his eyes to the Tower, he sayd: You thinke time sleepeth, or that slouthfulnesse wantonly walloweth in me: no, no, although to my great cost, yet haue I setled vp a surer stay to this my Realme and Countrey, then euer did my predecessors before me: For I haue here established a Tower to hange Trayterous knaues and Curtizans vpon. The worlde shall not adudge me partiall in my Lawes: for Subiectes shall drinke alike of one cuppe and licour. This being sayd, he caused the Barron and Casiope to be againe carryed to prison, and there to remayne tyll his further pleasure, euery howre expecting the deadly stroke that should seperate their bodyes from their soules.

All this while Sir Perce was not vnbusied, omitting no time that might further his intent, but continually fylling Vallentines eares with strong perswasions, that their liues and spyrights might be speedely depriued a sunder: which bloody stratagem was not long a finishyng, for the young Prince, or rather vnnaturall viper, in this maner powred downe the tempestious showers of cruer murther: for earlie in the morning, he caused his Mother Casiope to be brought forth, who the nyght before, hauing intelligence by her Keepers, that her dayes were at an ende, cloathed her selfe in vestmentes of white Silke: and comming before her bastard Sonne, she very humbly prostrated her selfe, and craued pitie, mercie, and forgiuenesse at his handes, and with a blushing countenaunce, as beautifull as the new bloomed Rose, she spake in this maner.

Oh Ionne Vallentinus (sayd she) remember that I am thy Mother, thy selfe fashioned of my wombe and body, and by nature springing from the tree of my life: yet thou like a most vnnaturall Homicide, seekest to shorten my dayes, and to stop my breath, whereas thou oughtest in duetie & obedience to vphold my honour, and prolong my life.

I do confesse my vile offences haue deserued punishment: but shall mine owne childe be the reuenger thereof? The banishment of good Queene Katherine, and the confusion of all her friendes, through my vniust meanes was accomplished, with many other miseries which I haue ouerburthened this land withall, onely to aduance an vngratefull dissembler, which like the Viper seeketh to finish the life of his dearest parentes. Many more were the speaches which Cassiope spake, in hope to attract remorce from her Iron harted Sonne: who nothing regarded her wordes, but rather the more imboldned and stirred vp into a greater fury, by a present commaundement, he caused her body to be cast vpon a Table, and her handes and legges to be holden by the strength of men: the which being done, he with a sharpe knife cut his Mothers throate: and with the same butcherly instrument deseuered her lilly necke from her shoulders, which had wont to be adorned with a glittering Chayne of pure Gold. After this, he caused the place which first conceiued him, to be ript vp, and filde full of corny Salt: where, after her belly being thus closed vp, he gaue commaundement to haue her dead carcasse transported to the top of the Tower, and there hung vpon a Gibbet. Her deare friend the Barron was vsed in the same order: for he had his mouth stuft full of burning Pepper, and hung likewise vpon the same Gibbet aliue, as a iust view of such vngratefull flatterers, and adulterous traytors to behold.

This bloody action being finished, Vallentinus spake to the people many reprochfull wordes in the disgrace of the wicked Barron, and Cassiope his Mother, calling her the She-deuowring Beare of England; and her deare friend, the first causer of King Edwardes dishonour: in which tyrranicall course of life, our story bids vs now leaue the Bastard Vallentinus with his new friend Sir Perce, & speake of the accidentes that happened in the Normane court.

Chap.

CHAP. 10.

¶ How Prince Edmond returned againe into England, and was crowned King: and how the baſtard King was put to death after a ſtrange maner.

QUeene Katherine (as you heard before) after her wrongfull banishment from England, was graciously entertayned of the Normane Duke, where she dayly had intelligence of the wofull estate of England, by many of her distressed Countrymen, which continually fled thyther for succour: in the redresse of whose miseries, shee made suite vnto Duke Robert of Normandie, that her young sonne Prince Edmond might returne into England, not onely to possesse himselfe into the rightful inheritance of his owne dominions, but to represse the pryde of the miscreant Bastard, whose tyrannize had made England the perfect mirror of calamitie, and the wofullest nation vnder the rope of heauen.

In this maner euery day Queene Katherine solicited Duke Robert with fauourable petitions for the furnishing of her sonne into his owne Countrey with a band of warlike Souldiers: vnto whom the Normane Duke answered in this maner. Loth I am (faire Queene) that your princely sonne should forsake my dukedome and dominion, being the only staffe of my old age; and after my death, the hope of my subiectes: although not naturally borne amongst them, yet comming of a royal blood, the sonne of a maiestical Prince, they will rather submit to his obedience, then to the gouern-

ment of one of a simpler birth. No: no (sayd Queene Katherine) there is no reason why a Stranger shoulde be Prince of forraigne Subiects, through whom they should be either too much burthened, or moued to disdaine: and therefore (most noble Duke) I humbly craue, that permission may be graunted for his departure: and in regarde of your princely liberalitie, hauing brought him vp to such abilitie, prowesse, and warlike perfection, he shalbe bound to confesse homage and loyaltie to your Kingdome whilst he liueth.

The Normane Duke being possest with a milde nature, and ready in all actions to satisfie Queene Katherines expectation, presently mustered a great multitude as well of Normane Souldiers, as exiled Englishmen, which zealously protested all dustifull indeuours in the young Princes behalfe, and in the accomplishment of that honorable exployte.

Queene Katherine hauing gathered great masses of Golde and Siluer, attayned through her learned skill and practise in Phisicke, furnished her sonne Prince Edmond with such abundance, that nothing wanted either to his aduenture, or contentment: and so being furnished with Munition, Shippes, and Souldiers, he hoysted vp sayle, and with a merrie winde safely arriued vpon the confines of England: where presently he aduaunced his culloures, and planted his forces to the best aduantage.

But now the bastard Prince Vallentinius being amazed at the sight hereof, with a fearefull troubled minde, greatly misdoubted that his Kingly gouernement was at an ende: yet hauing mustered vp a slender Armie of English Souldiers, nothing auayleable for his defence, he committed them vnder the leading of Sir Perce of Winchester: who tendering his owne safetie, went to the enemis, where both himselfe & his Souldiers, sware true obedience to Prince Edmond.

This

This vnexpected accident so daunted the Bastard King, that he grew desperate of good happe: and being left as a naked man, he secretly conueyed himselfe to the Tower, and hid himselfe in an obscure den.

Thus Prince Edmond without any further disturbance, quietly entred the Kingdome, where he tooke vppon him the possession of the English Crowne, placing the banished Englishmen in honorable dignities, and most richly aduaunced the Normane Souldiers: the which beeing so luckely accomplyshed, he caused the Bastard to be searched forth, and his mouth likewise to be stuffed and closed vp with burning Pepper, and hanged aliue in Chaynes of Iron by the Barron and Casiope, vppon the top of the Tower, as you herd before so vsed.

Euery thing brought thus to so good a passe, England in short time became well inpeopled againe, the Realme multiplyed in golde and siluer: Noble families adorned with honorable possessions: Lordes, Knightes, Esquires, and Gentlemen in semblable degree endowed: Marchants and Artificers well placed for traffique from forraigne Regions: great vent and tillage, and breede of Cattle increased: Learning and liberall Artes maynteined: Marshall prowesse exercised, and all thinges elle in most decent manner placed: the which we will passe ouer, and speake of King Edwarde, lyuing in the King of Denmarks Court.

CHAP.

CHAP. 11.

Of the Warres betweene King Edward and his owne Sonne, and the ſucceſſe thereof, with other things that hapned.

THeſe affayres could not be ſo priuatly handled in England but that King Edward had intelligence thereof in Denmarke: who with a reſolute determination deſired to returne into his native Countrey: not onely that his olde age might be there comforted, but that his daughter Siluia might be ioyned in marriage with Eſtricke the Prince of Denmarke. whoſe father in the reuenge of King Edwards long afflictions, cauſed the ſecond part of all his able men at armes to be muſtred vp, and prouided rich treaſures for Souldiers pay, with warlike weapons, armour, and ſtore of ſhippes neceſſary for ſuch a dangerous exployte. and publiſhed by Proclamation through al the Prouinces of Denmarke, that King Edward was to reclayme his lawfull right in England, vniuſtly vſurped by his owne Sonne: with many other incouragements giuen out, to animate his Subiectes, to proceede with reſolution.

This buſie preparation in Denmarke ſo pierced Sir Peirce of Winchelſters eares in England, that he miſtruſted his eſtate to be dangerous, and that his doble dealing would be ſhortly eſpyed: in the preuention whereof, the better to protect and defend him ſelfe, he writ this priuie Letter to King Edward, as followeth.

Sir

# of Albions Queene.

Sir Perce of Winchesters Letter, sent to King Edward.

NOthing shall intice my hart (most Soueraigne Lord) to proue disloyall to your Maiestie: nor nothing restraine the seruiceable duetie which I owe vnto your Excellencie. And although I was in my cradle when first you left your naturall Countrey of England, but yet now being growne vp to sufficient reason, do assemble all my powers of nature, what pollecie chiefly may preuaile, or practise procure your recouerie: For there is nothing that my drouping soule wisheth for more, thē your happy returne to your former possessions. I loue Prince *Edmond*, if he reuerence your Maiestie; and I wish him good successe, if he shew the duetie of a sonne vnto his father: against whom if he lift but his hand in wrath, the Gods will wreake iust vengeance & destruction vpon. Therefore most noble Lord, thinke it not danger to returne, for I will counsell him to submission, shewing what execrable vengeance is pretended to them which draw the sword of tyrannie against their owne Fathers. I will admonish him to conuerse, least his owne wilfull conceite bring him to perdition. Thus may I both defend and counsell him, without suspition of the world: and also thereupon shew fauour and reuerence to your worthy Maiestie.

Thus fare you vvell.

THis Letter being transported to King Edward into Denmarke, was receiued as sweete flowers, with promised requitall, the which refreshed his drouping senses, and changed dispaire into perfect assurance; and thinking now to recouer his former right by ꝑ meanes of Sir Perce, vpon whose backe the common wealth of England depended: but fearing least his proffered affections should alter, he sent this answere to his Letters, as followeth.

King

King Edwardes anſwere to Sir Perce of Winchesters Letter.

I Neuer diſpayred, but the Gods (which hitherto hath gouerned all my attemptes) would at laſt ſend ſome comfort to my miſeries, and bring me againe to the full perfection of my felicitie; which through your wiſedome and pollecie muſt be attained. Therefore, in moſt humble ſort I do accept your kind proffer; and this your loyall enterpriſe ſhall in the higheſt degree be blazed amongſt my beſt friendes: and vntill my ſoule be diuorced from my body, I ſhall neuer forget the loue of ſo faythfull a Subiect; hencefoorth vowing to put off all feminine affection and vaine delightes, which haunt Princes Pallaces, and the Courtes of mighty Kinges.

Haue not I iuſt cauſe to render thankes to the immortall Gods, that in the middeſt of my miſeries I haue found ſo prudent and worthy a friende as is your noble ſelfe, whoſe loyall hart is wholly conſecrated to my good fortunes. Euery day do I wath my face with teares for the tragicall ruine of my Countrey; and euery day do I breath out ſorrowfull ſighes from the cloſure of my ſoule, to thinke how the light beames of my princely honours hath been darkoned by the falſehood of *Caſiope*, and the Barrons cunning craft, whereby the poore Subiectes haue been indangered, and my ſelfe plundged in carefull calamities; all which greeueth not my ſoule ſo much, as that mine owne child now, contrary to the duetifull obedience of a Sonne, doth vſurpe my Crowne, and holdeth vp the Sworde of ſedition againſt his owne Father: Bnt yet I ſee the Gods will ſtill preſerue both my lyfe and honor, in that you are appoynted to remedy my diſtreſſe, and correct the trayterous treſpaſſe of a wicked Sonne.

Thus

Thus I ende, assuring my selfe, that my fortune shall amount to the loftie turrets of my desire, and likewise tread cowne disgrace, and quench the scorching flames of noysome enemies; thus wishing you as my selfe, I bid you farewell.

YET for all this, King Edward regarded this person but as a prodigall and climbing Traytor, proudly aspyring after princely dignities, and therefore entertayned and placed in the ranke of false friendes, vsing him as a shadow and image of a dead man, without either respecting his vallour, or trusting to his faigned flatteries.

But now in the meane space, whilst these thinges were a working, Prince Edmond vnderstood (by a private friende) of Winchesters pestiferous treasons: to the reformation whereof, he sent foorth a trustie Band of Souldiers for his apprehention: which newes by Sir Perce was first vnderstood, and therefore he fled secretly into Denmarke, and disclosed to King Edward all the posteries practised in England: for which, he was richly recompenced and rewarded with sumptuous entertainement. After whose departure, Prince Edmond felt the foundation of his Kingdome to begin to shake, and thinking now to be cloaked vnder his Mothers wing, he writeth to her of the starting away of Winchester his chiefe Counsellour, who hath not onely stayned the true duetie of a Subject, but impayred the safeguard of his regiment, and disclosed the princies of his counsell.

Prince

The famous Hiſtorie

¶ Prince Edmonds Letters to Queene Katherine, ſent to her into Normandie.

DEARE and welbeloued Mother, I haue ſeene, and knowne, and now at length found, the force of a flatterer: for the vnconſtant Knight of *Wincheſter* with falſe colours hath bleared my eyes; He hath ſucked Hony in *England*, and now ſpitteth Poyſon in *Denmarke*; he hath drawne out a vennomed Sworde to hacke a ſunder my rule and gouernment: He that was wont to comfort me with counſels, now killeth me with deadly deſtruction. Therefore my beloued Mother, as you did ſafely conduct me hither, ſo leaue me not now in danger of confuſion; for I am as one wrapped in ſundry extremeties, ſould into the handes of enemies, eyther to yeelde with repulſe and ſhame, or haue my young vnexperienced age conquered with death: wherefore ſweete Mother, ayde me with your ſtrong hand, that theſe dangers layde againſt me may be eſcaped. Rule me with reaſon, and with your honorable wiſedome counſell me, that I may euer hereafter gouerne my actions with diſcretion, and neuer more be troubled with treaſons of a flatterer, whoſe villanies hencefoorth I will diſdayne, and no more regard them, then the chaffe blowne away with the wind. Deare Mother, ſpeedely anſwere my diſtreſſed deſires, that my ſoule may not euer languiſh in diſtreſſe. Thus ending at this time, wiſhing the heauens to bleſſe you with honorable and long life: fare you well. From our Engliſh Court.

When Queene Katherine hau receiued Prince Edmonds Letters, ſhe in tenderneſſe of hart wept bitter teares: but yet being perfectly inſtructed in Wiſedomes preceptes, thought it againſt the lawes of nature to ſtriue

againſt

against her Husband, therefore she poured forth these sage sentences, the which in manner of a Letter she returned backe into England to Prince Edmond her sonne.

Queene Katherines Letters of consolation, sent to her sonne in England.

IT is well remembred (my princely Sonne) that flatterers vndermining Kingdomes, are Timber-wormes, which lurke in the secret celles of Princes consciences, that counterfeites the complexions of all creatures, and filles their boosomes vp with the Noble blood of Honourable houses: Why had not you then read and turnd ouer the auncient Chronicles of England, and seene into the fall of Princes, practised by the pride of flattering start-vps? The *Lacedimonian* Kinges, although preserued in Walles of Iron, and in Towers and Castles of Brasse, yet by the deceite of flattering traytors, were their princely gloryes subuerted to miserable infamie. The *Grecian* Princes continually placed in Chariots and close Litters of gold, guarded with great Armies and hoastes of puissant Souldiers; yet through the sufferance of false flatterers, were they dayly diuerted to sodayne confusion. I say my deare and honorable Sonne, looke into the gouernment of our auncient Kinges of England, who retaind none into their counselles, but the sonnes of Noble families, borne to honorable gifres of nature, wise, vertuous, and of a ciuill gouernement: If any of a base birth were entertayned into Princes fauours, first were they tryed, and then trusted: deserued, then honored: well approued, and then credited. I say, if either learning, wisedome, or experience, had in any poynt ruled thee, sweete flattery had not thus ouerreacht thee, nor subtile dissem-

bling ſo deceiued thee: and to conclude, King *Edward* my husband and thy father, in loue equall vnto vs both, may not be vndermined by mee, nor reſiſted by thee. I may well counſell, but not defende thee: nor anie way miniſter comfort to thy ſorrowfull afflictions, eſpecially againſt mine owne deare Husband, and thy Father: and as I admoniſh thee to reuerence his perſon, ſo I charge thee to reſtraine thy ſtubborne will; for although he hath heaped manyfold miſeries vpon my backe, yet with all honour to his perſon will I diſcharge my ſelfe: Thus fare you well, from the Court of Normandie.

Your ſorrowfull Mother,
vnhappy Katherine.

Queene Katherine although ſhe fauoured her Sonne, yet would ſhe not ſeeke to reſiſt King Edward her Huſband, but with wiſdome, obedience, and humilitie, gaue the world to vnderſtand, what glory & magnificence adorned her patience: and although motherly nature willed her to ſeeke the aduancement of her Sonne, yet diſcretion did mitigate the meanes that might ſcandalize the honour of her Huſband. Whereas Queene Katherine reſted in equall loue indifferently betweene them both, ſo the Earle of London being her brother, and Prince Edmondes Vncle, matched in mariage with the Dutcheſſe of Britaine, which honorable preferment happened through his ſiſters credite, who vnderſtanding of his Coſins diſtreſſe, as well by King Edwards prepared inuaſion, as Winchelters falſe treacheries in renouncing his ſubiection, rayſed a great Armie of ſouldiers, to the number of thirtie thouſand able Warriours, the which he conueyed into England to be imployed in Prince Edmonds ſeruice.

On the othe ſide, the good Duke of Suffolke, after his ban-

banishment from England, was highly graced with Fortunes felicitie, where through his Knighthood and manly behauiour, he got such good liking of the Queene of Portingale, into which Countrey he trauelled, that she receiued him into her fauour, and changed his wandring life into princely estimation, betrothing her loue and kingdome to his gouernement whilst she liued: and after her death, this noble Duke, by the generall voyce of the Portingales, was elected King and ruler in her stead.

The Duke of Suffolke being thus crowned King of Portingale, not of compulsion, but in curtesie, requested ten thousand able men to be prest in his friend Edmondes behalfe: the which multitude being leuied, and accepted into seruice, were conducted into England, and there by Prince Edmond most courteously entertained: who being now strengthened with the Duke of Suffolkes Souldiers from Portingale, with the Earle of Londons Souldiers from Brittaine, and with his owne Souldiers in England, being all ranged into one maine Battaile, he waighed in the ballance of discretion, either an honorable winning of renowne, or a loosing of all his Kingly dignities.

So vpon a time, assembling all the whole Armie of Souldiers together, as well of Brittanes, Portingales, as Englishmen, who to inflame their vndoubted mindes to honorable resolution, vpon an open Theator he spake this Oration following.

Prince Edmonds Oration to his Souldiers.

ALthough this our dominion of *England* (most noble Souldiers and worthy Subiectes) hath of late been made a common spoyle by sundry base flatterers, & impudent traytors, deepely digging and vndermining our royall estate: The fresh memorie of

which Englisſh miſeries, through *Caſtopes* filthy lyfe, the wicked Barrons cruell extortion, and the Baſtardes falſe vſurpation, might eaſely from your eyes conſtraine a fountaine of teares: which greeuous calamities at length through my Mothers care was taken away, and my ſelfe being young, and without experience, ſetled among you, am now in hazard to be bereaued not onely of life, but of rule and gouernement: the which if it be vnfortunately brought to paſſe, what other hopes may you then expect, but to be ranſacked and diſpoyled of all your poſſeſsions and wealth: your young men put to violent ſworde, your wiues rauiſhed, and your daughters euerie one defloured: Surelie then let troth be in your hartes, ſtirre vp your valoures, manifeſt your noble mindes, and ſtretch foorth the power and ſtrength of men, whereby that they which ſeeke to winne our ioyes, may firſt be drowned in a ſea of ſorrowes: and thoſe that will be honored with crownes, muſt firſt in marſhal fieldes obtaine a victorie: therefore my louing ſouldiers, if you ſtedfaſtly ſtand, I will ſprinkle my hart blood vpon our Engliſh ground, before that cowardize ſhall inforce me to flie, or looſe one iot or little portion of my Kingdome. Be not amazed my friendes and countrimen, either let vs liue to maintaine our ſtates together at libertie, or elſe looſe our liues with fame & renowne. Thus much I truſt, ſufficeth to witneſſe the vnfeigned affection the which I beare towards you, from whoſe loue, I will neuer depart till death.

This Knightly Oration ſo reioyced the ſouldiers harts, that they almoſt willingly offered their liues a ſacrifice in Prince Edmondes ſeruice, & made choyce rather to fight in defence of their Countrey, then to be captiuated with tyrannicall ſlauery: for whereas the Engliſh forces were before ſeparated in their ſeuerall opinions, ſo now were they with inſeparable hartes knit faſt together, valiantly reſolued

to try the last euent of this dangerous warre.

Thus whilst Prince Edmond incouraged his followers in this Knightly maner, the Denmarke King, with King Edward, arriued on the coastes of England with a mightie band of armed Souldiers, intermingled with the ayde of many forraine Princes, who marched successfully to a conuenient place in Kent, whereas they pitched their forces at the bottome of a high hill: in which place, the Danish King being a perfect good souldier, & a man of a prudent iudgement, practised many excellent pollicies: for in the nyght time, he caused a thousand wilde Horses with hollow rattles of Iron fastened to their neckes, to be sent foorth vpon the English Tentes without returne: this in-rode being so confusedly entered, he ordayned also an hoast of foure thousand Souldiers to pursue them with Wild-fire & burning Brimstone in their handes. In this maner entred they vppon the English Souldiers as naked men, and dispoyled the whole multitude of their liues: in which conflict, Prince Edmond was taken prisoner, who had his head (by his owne fathers commandement) stroken from his shoulders, and pitched vpon the top of a Pikes ende.

The Battle thus ceasing, newes by a publike report was spread throughout the Land of Prince Edmonds death: at which report, the Cities and principal houldes in the countrey were yeelded vp, and the forraine Souldiers being inforced to shift for them selues, escaped away in the nyght: after whose departure, King Edward, although in vtter hatred of the people, yet once againe gloriously entered into his kingdome, and became their gouernour: where, after he had setled himselfe, and the Denmarke King taken leaue, and departed backe into his Countrey: but King Edward repossessing his former estate, layde sharpe punishments & hard lawes vpon the English-mens backes, the which brought him againe into cankered contempt: for the people being vnruly, with vnbridled will placed their former ma-

lice

lice against him: vpon which, the King for his better securitie, resigned his Crowne and gouernment to his Daughter Siluia, and vnto Lord Essricke her Husband, and so betooke himselfe to priuate pleasure and rest.

Lord Essricke and faire Siluia with renowned honour thus tooke vpon them the gouernment of the Land, and because they were vnacquainted with the manners & conditions of the people, they retained Sir Perce of Winchester to be especially of their councell, and their only Secretarie: who cunningly behaued himselfe, that he obtayned the fauour and friendshyp of the common sort, winding himselfe more and more into their priuities in such sort, that he perswaded the people that Lord Essricke and Lady Siluia were vnnaturall Princes, & vnfit to gouerne so louing a people.

Sir Perce of Winchester thus got into the loue of the common sort, winked vpon all transgressions, fauored traytors, theeues, harlots, and such dissolute persons, and many times hauing a company of simple men in his presence, he would speake to them in this maner, saying. Oh if I were your Gouernour, and the awfull sworde of Iustice in my hands, what libertie then should ouershadow your actions! for without controulement or punishment then, should you freely liue, and haue both honour, wealth, and pleasure, at your will.

This practise secretly came to King Edwards eares who being well acquainted with the drifts of ſ latterers, trembling at the memorie of his former miseries, led Winchester by faire words vp to the top of a high Tower, whereas ouer looking the same, King Edward (with other confederates, appoynted for that purpose) cast him headlong ouer the wall, dashing his bones against the hard ground, and so brake his necke: euen as he craftely crept into the fauour of the common sort, so wretchedly with shame and dishonour ended he his life.

Now King Edward thinking the estate of his kingdome

freed

freed from al traitrous complotters, gaue him selfe wholly to voluptuous desires: and hauing vnchast lust harbouring in his brest (against all nature) he desirest incestious concupiscence with faire Siluia his owne daughter: and being in a secret chamber ready to inforce her to that filthy fact, she spake to him in this maner.

Deare Father, remember the honour of your house, my allegeance & duetie to my Husband, and the violating of my nuptiall chastetie: all which (if you commit your pretended sinne) will bring a heauie iudgement and greeuous scourge from God to punish our wicked deed, and euermore in this worlde we shalbe made a disdaine and open contempt to be gaped at. All which perswasions nothing preuayled, for the King being drowned in forgetfulnesse of former miseres, inforced vehemently the rauishment and deflowring of his daughter Siluias honorable chastetie: the which being no sooner obtayned, and shamefully committed, but by the iust iudgement of God, he was sodainly stroken with death: for in his daughters presence, a fearefull flambe of burning fire descended from the celestiall throne of heauen, and bereaued him both of speach and syse in a moment, in the twinckling of an eye. Which strange vengeance was no little veration to the sorrowfull hart of Lady Siluia; yet remembring the duetie of a daughter to her father, she caused a costly Monument of pure wrought gold to be framed, wherein (with her husbandes consent) he was with great honour intombed, as though he had left this transitorie worlde naturally without any such violent end.

After king Edwards death thus strangely happened, Lord Esserick vpon his owne absolute authoritie bore swaye among the people, who was not able to gouerne ꝑ countrey, except it were with mercilesse tyrannie: for the natures of English-men be euermore such, that they will not indure nor sustaine the burthens of any forraine Prince. In the reformatiō of which rule, they did not only surprise sundry in-

famous slaunders against him throughout the whole countrey, but also trayterously conspired the finall destruction of his life: which wilfull treacheries might haue lately been preuented, had not Lord Essricke misliked the sweete and pleasant mariage estate of vertuous Siluia his wife: for after her company became loathsome to his good liking, the dominion could not long continue vnhazarded.

Lord Essericke was not onely now led with an ambitious and princely desire, but also had his affections ouermaistered with witlesse cogitations, feruently burning with the strange lust of the English Ladyes: and being thus vainely intended, he disdayned the comely beautie and honorable personage of faire Siluia; whereby bright gold seemed drosse, pure wine reputed stinking water: and the pleasant flowers before smelling sweetely, were now esteemed stinking weedes. Thus his hollome lenses being corrupted with lust, faire Siluiaes vertues in his eyes seemed nothing delightsome: so loathsome he accompted her presence to his company, that he dayly practised a meane whereby she might be dispatched: but at last, after many deuises touching her death, he consulted about the same with a Doctor of Phisicke, who although well qualified, and singularly experienced, and deepely seene in that noble and reuerent science, yet a couetous gaine, and a desire of estimation (as a lewde instrument to any vile purpose) puffed him vp, and made him consent to the ouerthrow and fatall finishing of the sweete and tender life of Lady Siluia: who hauing receiued an earnest of a rich reward from Lord Essricke, he prepared a fatall Potion to cast her into her euerlasting sleepe. The which potion, or rather deadly Poyson, being no sooner ministred by the Phisician, and receiued by faire Siluia, but presently she was drowned in a deadly and vnwakefull sleepe, wherein her vitall senses were so mortified, that her sweete body loosing both strength and operation, yeelded vp her delicate life without hope of recouerie.

couerie. The vncertaintie of Siluias death being repoꝛted abꝛoad, cauſed many doubtfull ſurmiſes to be made, ſome one way, ſome another of her tragicall end: but yet to ſalue this contagious ſoꝛe, Loꝛd Eſſricke her huſband, by pꝛoclamation publiſhed throughout the dominion of England her honoꝛable and liberall Funerall: the which was openly ſolemnized in the cittie of London, not only to ercepe into the fauours of the vulgar ſoꝛt of people, but alſo to cleake and burie the murther vp in hidden ſecrecie: by which cunning meanes he thought the moꝛe ſafer to climbe to the higheſt top of the Kingdome, without either ſtop oꝛ impedimented ſtay by any one whatſoeuer.

After the honoꝛable funeral of Lady Siluia was finiſhed, and her delicate body intombed in the grauelled earth, certaine Engliſh Pꝛieſtes (by a general ſpeach dayly giuen out by the common ſoꝛt) heard repoꝛted, that Lady Siluia was buried by her huſbandes appoyntment with great ſtoꝛe of treaſure about her: to the attayning thereof, to the number of fourtie officiall Pꝛieſtes, in a night ſecretly attempted to digge vp the Ladyes body, thereby to inrich themſelues with ineſtimable ſtoꝛe of treaſure, that all their liues afterward might be ſtoꝛed with plentie of wealth. But now to put this exployte & vile enterpꝛiſe in pꝛactiſe, in the middle houre of the night they met all together at Siluias Tombe, where they ſpeedely delued and digged vp her ſanctified body: the which being taken vp, they pꝛeceiued their intents to be fruſtrate: and miſſing the gaine of that which they moſt deſired, they ſodainely departed, and left the coarſe naked vpon the bare ground, the which ſo openly was left to be ſeene of euery one, that all the beholders might eaſely pꝛeceiue that ſhe had her death contriued by the violence of poyſon.

The body of Siluia being thus pꝛiuily intombed, pꝛeſent newes of the ſame was tranſlated to the hearing of Loꝛd Eſſricke, who fearing his vnnaturall murthering of her

daintie life would be brought in publique queſtion to the world, therefore preſently ſending for the Phiſitian, whoſe counſell he chiefly required in this cauſe, & diligently fadomed the deapth thereof how Lord Eſſricke might beſt regard his owne perſon, defende his credite, and poſſeſſe the Kingdome in the honour of the people. But now ſuch was the fraudulent attemptes of theſe two ſecret murtherers, by inquiſition they found, that the conſpiracie & treaſon in digging vp Siluias body proceeded from the Engliſh Prelacie: for which fact, moſt execrable crueltie was prepared for them: for by the worthy and diligent ſearch, and the Phiſitians pollicie, the general number of thoſe Engliſh prieſtes which were at the fact doing were faund out, taken, and apprehended, and by order of law put to death. Thus were the ends of the ſaid wicked Prelates, who at their dying howers inwardly mourned, and greeuouſly lamented their miſſpent lyues, and their ill diſguyſed manners in the religion which they profeſſed before God: whoſe ſoules were drowned in the lake of couetouſneſſe & extortion, in pride, letcherie, and ambition: which Prieſtes were the rather put to death, becauſe the common ſort of people dayly complayned of their wicked conuerſations, then their wilfull practiſes at faire Siluias Tombe.

Lord Eſſricke to throw himſelfe into the fauour of the vulgar ſort, as wel to diſguiſe his owne leawd life, as to appeaſe the peoples murmurations, he made a reſolute determination, vtterly to diſpleaſe the religious Prelates: all which nothing preuayled to couer his wickednes, or make him the better liked amongſt the ruder people, whoſe natures alwayes loathed and miſlyketh ſtrange & vnnaturall gouernement: yet this was the Phiſitians counſell, to tame and chaſtice the maners of the people, which cannot be performed (ſaid he) except by crueltie, tyranny, miſgouernment, vſurpation, taxes, heauie tributes, and ſuch like: all other gentle meanes helped not, but rather made them more fier-

cer,

ter, and in manners and conditions the more ruder.

But now discourse we againe of the vertuous Queene Katherine, that in the middest of these troubles in England, had her fame and renowne made glorious in forraigne Nations: for during her abode in the Normane Court, she preferred the late Lord high Marshals daughter of England to Duke Robert in marriage estate, who not long before had buried his Dutchesse, and committed her vertuous spirit to the mighty and supernall maiestie of heauen.

This young Lady which now the Normane Duke had matched withall, by the motion and preferment of Queene Katherine, was the Lord Marshals daughter, whose father spent the best blood of his hart, and yeelded his lyfe with his familie, in the right and defence of Queene Katherines chastetie (as you heard before discouered in the beginning of the History,) in recompence whereof, the Queene thus preferred and aduaunced his onely child and daughter, being of long time vnder her tuition educated and in honorable maner instructed.

But now by the appoyntment of the immortal powers of heauen, Queene Katherine, to the accomplishment of al the tragicall calamities that long had oppressed her Countrey England, whose happines she inwardly in hart most intirely loued, and long sighed after, with the ayde of the Normane Duke and other Princes of Christendome, which tenderly affected her vertues, she returned with great admiration, prayse, and renowne, from her banishment: who being placed in a Coach of pure gold, drawne with foure milke white Palfries, with a rich imperiall Diadem vpon her head, a Scepter of bright siluer in her hand, with many other gorgious ordinances which most gloriously adorned her princely person: in which sumptuous maner she entered vpon the coast of her native Countrey from whence she was vniustly banished: whereat, being no sooner come on land, but there met her such multitudes of distressed Eng-

lish people, that the pleasant Pastures where she trauelled, seemed to be ouerspread, who entertained her with exceeding ioy, saying aloude with a generall voyce, Oh happy is the houre, and blessed is the day that our renowned Queene is returned from banishment: the Gods preserue and blesse her with euerlasting peace, and send her long to raigne and gouerne vs with ioy and great tranquilitie, in more admired glory then did euer Queene in this happy Iland. These and such like speaches was spoken both of young and olde, not onely to her great ioy, but to the exceeding comfort of all the forraine Princes, her well willers.

But now Lord Essricke and his chiefe Counseller the Phisition, perceiuing the whole Countrey to reuolt from their subiection, and willingly yeelded to the wished gouernment of Queene Katherine: which vnexpected alteration caused them both to submit themselues to her gratious fauour: who remembring the death of Prince Edmond and the murdering of Siluia her deare children, and also what inconuenience and disturbance by prolonging their lyues, might happen to the Common-weale: Therefore in straight execution she commaunded her will effectually to be discharged, which was, to haue Lord Essricke and his Counsellers head presently deseuered from their shoulders: the which was not so strictly commaunded, as speedely performed.

The great prosperitie and wealth wherewith Queene Katherine, by her returne from banishment, beautified and inriched England, did so much reioyce the dying spirites of the mournefull people, that they were glorified in their owne desires, and euery one deemed their fortunes lyfted from long continued miserie, to euerlasting felicitie. But now the vertuous Queene, to make requitall for the good Duke of Suffolkes banishment, and haynous iniuries besides, in times past extended through the vnbridled furie of her Husbandes wrath, much desired his returne into England

land to poſſeſſe his owne Patrimonies, Landes, and loftie Dignities, ſo long withholden from him: Therefore to the ſame effect ſhe ſent Embaſſadors ſpeedely into Portingale, where ſhe heard he remained and gouerned in Princely eſtate: which knowledge was no ſoouer giuen to the Duke, but with maieſtie, ſumptuous renowne, and aboundant of treaſures, furniſhed on euery ſide, he haſted into England: who by the vertuous Queene was receiued with ſurpaſſing glory and magnificence. Long had not theſe two princely perſonages remayned in the Engliſh Court, but by the conſent of the whole Countrey they were ioyned and matched together in the lawfull eſtate of marriage: by whoſe wiſe gouernement the land of England in ſhort time, not onely became populous, rich, honorable, and quiet: but repleniſhed with all maner of neceſſary things. And finally, Queene Katherine marrying the good Duke of Suffolke, together with the conſent and aduice of the whole dominion, were crowned legetimate gouernors of England: where they inioyed iſſue and poſterite betweene them, with long life, proſperous renowne, eternall honour, and euerlaſting felicitie.

(*)

FINIS.

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